



Pander's Ground-jay Podoces panderi ilensis, Kazakhstan. Photo Hans Rytter ©

**Mixture KAKI 2007 – Birding
in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan
01.July – 24.July 2007**

Dear Birdwatcher

List of species observed during Mikstures ornithological journey in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan 1.July - 24.July 2007. This summer we explored the Kazakh steppes, the south-eastern semi desert/desert areas and the eastern part of Kyrgyzstan. KAKI (Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) 2007 was an incredible journey. We managed to observe an impressive number of birds (and mammals). Both countries are fascinating and unrivalled in beauty. It's impossible to pinpoint all the highlights, but I think the species list tells it own story. It's impossible to see all species in a single travel, but in my mind we managed to see the majority - and most important - the participant's target species.

There were 15 participants: Mr Leo Søgaard Borch, Mr Erik Danielsen, Mr Flemming Falk, Mr Kurt Kaack Hansen, Ms Henny Tove Schiermacker-Hansen, Mr Per Schiermacker-Hansen, Mr Finn Allan Jensen, Mr Niels Bomholt Jensen, Mr Michael Mosebo Jensen, Ms Annemarie Muurholm Kaack, Ms Bodil Rytter, Mr Hans Rytter, Mr Michael Schwalbe, Ms Lilly Irene Sørensen, Ms Lone Pilgaard Sørensen & tour leader (and owner of Miksture Michael Westerbjerg Andersen. The participants were outstanding in their way of dealing the journeys tough conditions. Everyone was participating very active in finding the birds - and discussing the observations and helping writing the species list. It was a determined and skilled group of Danish birders operating in Central Asia this summer. I am impressed. Hans, Per and Michael Mosebo took loads of excellent and useful pictures - too few of them illustrates this report. Hans, Per and Kurt were profs dealing with catching birds for DNA-analysis (of course in their skilled hands no birds were harmed and every single were released). It was a dedicated and extremely focused group of Danish birders who joined almost four weeks birding without slightest complains, and I really appreciated the dedication, skill and friendly companion of my fellow travellers. Acknowledgement certainly goes to my Kyrgyz team as well. They accompanied us during the journey. In Kazakhstan I went to Astana together with my good friends Luba, Olga, Sasha, Misha and Vital, they owns the Kyrgyz company I work with) and they took so well care of all of us - provided us with excellent food and companionship. I had known them since 1993 and establish everything in Kyrgyzstan in close cooperation with them. They are my friends and those I always trust.

Pictures: This report contains pictures photographed by Hans Rytter, Per Schiermacker-Hansen and Mchael Westerbjerg Andersen and taken during KAKI 2007. Pls respect copyrights and direct message to the photographers if copies of the originals are wanted - we are very friendly towards such requests!

Kind regards

Michael Westerbjerg Andersen (Mic)

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All birders are welcome and on our travels there usually is a mix-ture of nationalities. Language is no problem: English, French, German and Danish are spoken. Miksture provide information about travelling in the region and specific ornithological information. In July 2008 we go again to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. My team and I can be hired for birding in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Southern Siberia and Western China. We are able to "tailor-make" the journey according your wishes - destinations & species as well as duration. It's possible to book me as leader or co-leader for your journey in the region. We use our own vehicles, own gear - tents, kitchen-team, etc. Everything to increase your birding experience and your safety. In addition our prices are reasonable for everyone. We have an excellent team by whom I have travelled and worked together with for more than ten years. They are some of my very best friends and in combination; we know thoroughly the areas and the birds.

Usually we arrange tours for 4-15 pax - best group's size for birding is 5-10 participants; but we are flexible. Fair prices, security, honesty and great birding are keywords - try us! Please contact me for further information. Programs can be studied on our websites. You are welcome to contact me for further information and I welcome any remarks and dialogue.

Miksture was established with the purpose of encourage and combine Eco-tourism and biological scientific research in Central Asia; mainly Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. The approach of combining Eco-tourism and Nature Conservation is in many ways opposite activities, but in Kyrgyzstan we have done it without severe compromises for the visitors and the environment. Our tours are the result of friendship and strange ideas and our carefully planned itineraries and intensive approach have since 1994 given those who travel with us an unusually experience.

Miksture is an independent company, established and owned by Michael Westerbjerg Andersen. You will always be in contact with Michael when you contact us. All itineraries are accompanied by the staff of Kyrgyz-Travel who posses the knowledge and experience to make the tour wholly successful. They know the areas thoroughly and take pride in showing those who travel the local hotspots, confidently coping with any problems that may arise and so greatly increasing the chance that everything will run smoothly. Leading a tour in Europe or North America is one thing, leading one in Central Asia where logistical problems are a fact of life is quite another! Where practicable and necessary we obtain the assistance of local leaders who have both an intimate knowledge of their home areas and the ability to look after the group to the required standard.

Miksture Ornithological Expeditions 2007 - 2008

1) *Winter birding Kyrgyzstan - December or January.* Eastern Kyrgyzstan along southern shores of Lake Issyk-Kul. Loads of wintering waterfowls and guests from Siberia. (Program and reports available pls contact Miksture)

2) *Snow leopard Expedition 2008.* From Snowleopard Expedition 2007: Two adult males + 1 female with two cubs occurred in the area we searched. Twice short glimpse were obtained of single animals, and in 2003 we saw one animal for several minutes. We are becoming better and better year-for-year to detect the presence of this magnificent animal, and Miksture are probably one of the only contacts in the world who are able to achieve a more-than-reasonable-chance for to observe this animal in Northern Himalaya. Our Expeditions rate of success is currently 75%. Small groups and reasonable prices are our trademark. One Snowleopard Expedition pr. year only. Price in 2008 will be approx. 2300 - 2500 EURO from Copenhagen - Kyrgyzstan - Copenhagen including: Flight ticket, everything in Kyrgyzstan and me (Mic) as Expedition leader. Strongly recommended for birders, too - of course. Only 8 seats available! (Program and reports available pls contact Miksture)

3) *Birding Buryatia and Lake Baikal-area - South-western Siberia.* 10 days ultimo May. Max. 8 participants. (Program and reports available, pls contact Miksture)

4) *KAKI 2008 - Ornithological journey to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan - July 2008.* Similar program as this report. (Program and reports available pls contact Miksture)

5) *Birding Northern Kazakhstan during autumn migration - Geese and Steppe birds.* 12 days (program available medio December 08; pls contact Miksture).

Furthermore there are departures of more private Miksture-groups. Interested is welcome to join. Pls. contact Miksture for further information and programs. Its possible to book my team and I for further birding expeditions in the region and we are able to "tailor-make" the journey according your wishes - destinations & species as well as duration.

KAKI 2007 Itinerary

2/7 Almaty, 2/7 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 Lake Sorbulak – Kolshengel, Taukum desert, Almaty province, 7/7 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 8/7 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 9/7 Qaraoy village, 10/7 Qaraoy village, 10/7 Qaraoy village and desert area north of the village, 11/7 Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 11/7 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 11/7 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 12/7 Shilik – Nurly, 12/7 Nurly-area, 13/7 Nurly; campsite, 13/7 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 13/7 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 Karakol, 14/7 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 14/7 May-Saz campsite, 15/7 May-Saz, 16/7 May-Saz, 16/7 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 Jeti-Ögüz, 17/7 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 17/7 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 18/7 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 19/7 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 Tamga, 20/7 Tamga – Son Kul, 20/7 Son Kul, 21/7 Son Kul, 22/7 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok, 23/7 Bishkek – Ala Archa, 23/7 Ala Archa, 23/7 Fishponds n. of Bishkek.

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan 2007

Species sequence, taxonomy and nomenclature follow The British Birds List of Western Palearctic Birds (British Birds sine dato). This list is based on Snow and Perrins (1998) and subsequent decisions by the British Ornithologists' Union. For the remaining Eastern Palearctic and Oriental species Inskipp et al (1996) and Dickinson (2003) are followed. Subspecies taxonomy and nomenclature follow The Birds of the Western Palearctic (1977-94) and Dickinson (2003). Deviations in systematic and taxonomy are accounted for in notes in the species accounts.



Hume's Warbler Phylloscopus humei humei, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Mic

Systematic List of the Birds observed during our journey.

Anatidae

Mute Swan - Knopsvane *Cygnus olor*

3/7 3 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 205 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 35 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 35 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 1000+ Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 15 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 9/7 2 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells.

Whooper Swan - Sangsvane *Cygnus cygnus*

4/7 1 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 5/7 2 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve.

Greylag Goose – Grågås *Anser anser rubrirostris*

3/7 2 ad. + pull. Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 2 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 37 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 25 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 7 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 20 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 11/7 7 Qaraoy village +

transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy and 21/7 19 Son Kul.

Ruddy Shelduck - Rustand *Tadorna ferruginea*

4/7 4 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 2 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 17 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 30 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 1 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 20 Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 1 Lake Sorbulak – Kolshengel, Taukum desert, Almaty province, 8/7 10 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 11/7 8 Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 13/7 1 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 3 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 15/7 5 May-Saz, 17/7 12 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 1 pair + pull. Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 18/7 2 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 51 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 5 Tamga – Son Kul, 20/7 25 Son Kul and 21/7 130 Son Kul.



Common Shelduck - Gravand *Tadorna tadorna*

3/7 1 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 1 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 10 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 8 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 150 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 5/7 5 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve.

Eurasian Wigeon - Pibeand *Anas penelope*

4/7 6 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 100 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 103 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 300 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 11/7 4 Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy.

Gadwall – Knarand *Anas strepera strepera*

4/7 5 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 400 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 4 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 100 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 1 female and 2 males Karazhar – Astana Airport, 20/7 2 Son Kul and 21/7 14 Son Kul.

Eurasian Teal – Krikand *Anas crecca crecca*

4/7 50 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 300 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 20/7 1 Son Kul and 21/7 1 Son Kul.

Mallard – Gråand *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*

3/7 2 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 1 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 3 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 25 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 4 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 30 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 2 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 8/7 10 ad. + pull. Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 11/7 5 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 12/7 1 Shilik – Nurly, 17/7 1 female Jeti-Ögüz and 17/7 4 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village.

Pintail – Spidsand *Anas acuta acuta*

3/7 4 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 40 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 8 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 10 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 21/7 6 Son Kul.

Garganey – Atlingand *Anas querquedula*

4/7 1 male Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 1 male Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 2 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 5 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 17/7 4 females and 1 male Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 21/7 7 Son Kul and 23/7 103 Fishponds NW of Bishkek..

Shoveler – Skeand *Anas clypeata*

2/7 4 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 4/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 12 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 10 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 21/7 1 Son Kul.



Red-crested Pochard – Rødhovedet And *Netta rufina*

3/7 4 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 10 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 38 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 6 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 40 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 5 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 1 female Lake Sorbulak and 23/7 30 Fishponds NW of Bishkek..

Common Pochard – Taffeland *Aythya ferina*

3/7 60+ Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 37+ Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 500 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 175 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 500 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 17/7 4 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village.

Ferruginous Duck – Hvidøjet And *Aythya nyroca*

5/7 1 male Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 9/7 1 male Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells and 23/7 68 Fishponds n. of Bishkek.

Tufted Duck – Troidand *Aythya fuligula*

4/7 21 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 10 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 55 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 17/7 5 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 20/7 2 Son Kul, 21/7 20 Son Kul and 23/7 3 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Common Goldeneye – Hvinand *Bucephala clangula clangula*

3/7 4 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 21 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 50 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 20 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon and 5/7 20 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve.

Goosander – Stor Skallesluger *Mergus merganser merganser*

19/7 7 Issyk-Kul near Saltlake Kara-Kel.

White-headed Duck – Hvidhovedet And *Oxyura leucocephala*

4/7 7 females and 23 males Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 5/7 37 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve.

Phasianidae

Himalayan Snowcock *Tetraogallus himalayensis sewerzowi*

15/7 and 16/7 total in May-Saz area c.12 birds. More were active calling and seen well.

Chukar Partridge - Chukarhøne *Alectoris chukar (falki)*

13/7 15 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon and 14/7 4 Karakol.

Common Quail – Vagtel *Coturnix coturnix coturnix*

3/7 1 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 6/7 1 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 2 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 2 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 9/7 3 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 13/7 2 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 16/7 1 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 2 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 1 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 20/7 5 Tamga and 22/7 5 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Common Pheasant – Fasan *Phasianus colchicus mongolicus*

8/7 1 ad. female + 15 chicks Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 12/7 1 male Shilik – Nurly, 13/7 1 male Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol and 17/7 1 Jeti-Ögüz.

Gaviidae

Black-throated Diver – Sortstrubet Lom *Gavia arctica arctica*

3/7 3 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 20 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon and 5/7 20 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning. 20 birds is quite an impressive number – especially when seen together.

Podicipedidae

Little Grebe – Lille Lappedykker *Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis*

2/7 1 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 4/7 2 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 2 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 8/7 6 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 17/7 1 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu and 23/7 1 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Great Crested Grebe – Toppet Lappedykker *Podiceps cristatus cristatus*

3/7 8 Arrival Astana; city, 4/7 2 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 20 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 3 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 10 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 625 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 37 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 9/7 2 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 17/7 30 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of

Saruu village, 18/7 15 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 19/7 20 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 19/7 17 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 20 Son Kul, 21/7 175 Son Kul and 23/7 26 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Red-necked Grebe – Gråstrubet Lappedykker *Podiceps grisegena griseigena*

4/7 1 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 14 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 23/7 3 Fishponds NW of Bishkek..

Slavonian Grebe – Nordisk Lappedykker *Podiceps auritus*

5/7 9 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 21/7 4 ad. + 2 pull. Son Kul.

Black-necked Grebe – Sorthalset Lappedykker *Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis*

4/7 125 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 3 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 1 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 17/7 9 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 19/7 18 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 20/7 30 ad. + pull. Son Kul and 21/7 65 Son Kul.

Phalacrocoracidae

Great Cormorant – Skarv *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

3/7 2 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 790 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 10 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 130 Lake Sorbulak, 9/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 10/7 1 Qaraoy village, 17/7 1 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village and 21/7 2 Son Kul.

Pygmy Cormorant – Dværgskarv *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*

23/7 20 Fishponds NW of Bishkek. Probably some of them are local breeding birds – in 2006 I found more birds hiding in small ponds/lakes in the vicinity. Birds seen were probably post-breeding numbers.

Pelecanidae

White Pelican – Almindelig Pelikan *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

7/7 2 Lake Sorbulak and 10/7 10 Qaraoy village.

Dalmatian Pelican – Krøltoppet Pelikan *Pelecanus crispus*

3/7 3 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 4 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 7 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 60 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 100 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 60 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 1 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 3 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 15 Lake Sorbulak and 9/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest.

Ardeidae

Eurasian Bittern – Rørdrum *Botaurus stellaris stellaris*

3/7 1 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 2 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 1 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 8/7 1 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province.

Little Bittern – Dværghejre *Ixobrychus minutus minutus*

8/7 1 male Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 9/7 1 ad. Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 12/7 1 male Shilik – Nurly, 17/7 5 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu and 17/7 3 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village.



Little Bittern, Kyrgyzstan.. Photo Mic

Night Heron – Nathejre *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*

8/7 1ad. male Kolshengel - Zhelturanga, Turanga forest and 9/7 3 (2 ad. + 1 juv.) Zhelturanga, Turanga forest.

Great White Egret – Sölvhejre *Casmerodius albus albus*

3/7 1 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 1 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 1 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 9 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 9 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 10 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 4 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 10 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 3 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 8/7 11 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 5 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 11/7 8 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river and 12/7 2 Shilik – Nurly.

Grey Heron – Fiskehejre *Ardea cinerea cinerea*

3/7 1 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 2 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 2 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 3 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 10 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 2 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 7 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 3 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 8 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 2 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 8/7 2 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 16 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 2 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 11/7 1 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 17/7 1 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 19/7 2 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 19/7 3 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place and 21/7 7 Son Kul.

Ciconiidae

Black Stork – Sort Stork

Ciconia nigra

21/7 6 Son Kul.

Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo –

Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

4/7 4 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve. Few!

Accipitridae

Oriental Honey-buzzard – Tophvepsevåge *Pernis ptilorhyncus orientalis*

17/7 2 Jeti-Ögüz. An interesting and unusual observation in Kyrgyzstan.

Black Kite – Sort Glente *Milvus migrans migrans and lineatus*

2/7 2 migrans Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 2 migrans Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 2 migrans Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 5/7 1 migrans Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 2 lineatus Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 52 lineatus Lake Sorbulak – Kolshengel, Taukum desert, Almaty province, 8/7 2 lineatus Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 1 lineatus Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 8/7 5 lineatus Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 4 lineatus Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 4 lineatus Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 11/7 3 lineatus Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 12/7 1 lineatus Shilik – Nurly, 12/7 4 lineatus Nurly-area, 13/7 3 lineatus Nurly; campsite, 13/7 4 lineatus Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 14/7 1 lineatus Karakol, 14/7 5 lineatus Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 16/7 3 lineatus May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 4 lineatus Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 6 lineatus Jeti-Ögüz, 17/7 5 lineatus Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 18/7 1 lineatus Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 19/7 2 lineatus Saltlake Kara-Kel, 20/7 3 lineatus Tamga – Son Kul, 20/7 1 lineatus Son Kul and 21/7 2 lineatus Son Kul



Black Kite, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Mic



Lammergeier, Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

White-tailed Eagle – Havørn *Haliaeetus albicilla*

4/7 1 imm. Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 9/7 1 imm. Zhelturanga, Turanga forest.

Lammergeier – Lammegrib *Gypaetus barbatus aureus*

13/7 1 ad. Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 14/7 1 ad. May-Saz campsite, 15/7 2 May-Saz, 16/7 1 ad. May-Saz, 20/7 1 Son Kul, 21/7 1 ad. Son Kul and 23/7 1 Ala Archa.

Egyptian Vulture – Ådselsgrib *Neophron percnopterus percnopterus*

12/7 2 Nurly-area.

Himalayan Griffon Vulture *Gyps himalayensis*

14/7 3 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 15/7 2 May-Saz, 18/7 7 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge and 23/7 4 Ala Archa.

Eurasian Black Vulture – Munkegrib *Aegypius monachus*

15/7 2 May-Saz.

Short-toed Eagle – Slangeørn *Circaetus gallicus*

9/7 3 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest and 12/7 1 Nurly-area.

Marsh Harrier – Rørhøg *Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*

2/7 1 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 6 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 2 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 2 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 8 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 5 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 15 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 1 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 5 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 4 Lake Sorbulak – Kolshengel, Taukum desert, Almaty province, 8/7 1 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 9/7 1 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 12/7 2 Shilik – Nurly and 17/7 1 female Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu.

Pallid Harrier – Steppehøg *Circus macrourus*

3/7 2 males Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 2 males + 1 female/juv. and 1 3.cy. Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 1 2.cy. Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 10 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 1 male Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 5 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 6 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 1 ad. male Lake Sorbulak – Kolshengel, Taukum desert, Almaty province, 7/7 1 juv. Kolshengel, Taukum desert and 8/7 1 juv. Kolshengel, Taukum desert.

Montagu's Harrier – Hedeheøg *Circus pygargus*

3/7 1 female + 1 male Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 8/7 1 ad. male Kolshengel, Taukum desert and 12/7 1 male Nurly-area.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk – Spurvehøg *Accipiter nisus (dementjevi)*

2/7 1 pair + 3 pull. Almaty, 3/7 1 Arrival Astana; city, 6/7 1 Karazhar – Astana Airport and 17/7 1 Jeti-Ögüz.

Shikra *Accipiter badius cenchroides*

8/7 3 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 4 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 2 Qaraoy village and 10/7 1 pair with 4 pull. Qaraoy village.

Common Buzzard – Musvåge ssp “Steppevåge” *Buteo buteo vulpinus*

3/7 4 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 5 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 3 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 1 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 9/7 1 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 13/7 2 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 1 Karakol, 14/7 1 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along

the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 17/7 1 Jeti-Ögüz and 21/7 2 Son Kul.

Long-legged Buzzard – Ørnevåge *Buteo rufinus rufinus*

2/7 10 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 20 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 10 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 7 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 3 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 11 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 7 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 12 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 9/7 40 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 10/7 5 Qaraoy village and desert area north of the village, 11/7 7 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 11/7 3 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 12/7 2 Shilik – Nurly, 12/7 8 Nurly-area, 13/7 3 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 14/7 1 Karakol, 14/7 1 dark-phase Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 17/7 1 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 1 Jeti-Ögüz, 19/7 1 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 1 Tamga – Son Kul and 21/7 1 Son Kul.

Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius*

(18/7 1 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay.)

Booted Eagle – Dværgørn *Aquila pennata*

7/7 1 light-phase Lake Sorbulak – Kolshengel, Taukum desert, Almaty province, 8/7 2 (1 light- and 1 dark-phase) Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 12/7 1 light-phase Nurly-area, 13/7 2 light-phase Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 13/7 1 light-phase Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol and 21/7 1 dark-phase Son Kul.



Long-legged Buzzard, Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

Golden Eagle – Kongeørn *Aquila chrysaetos (daphanea)*

9/7 1 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 11/7 1 ad. Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 13/7 2 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 14/7 4 ad. Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 14/7 3 ad. + 1 imm. May-Saz campsite, 16/7 3 ad. May-Saz, 16/7 1 May-Saz – Karakol and 18/7 4 ad. 1 imm. Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge.

Steppe Eagle – Steppeørn *Aquila nipalensis*

4/7 1 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 12/7 1 2.cy. Nurly-area.

Eastern Imperial Eagle – Kejserørn *Aquila heliaca*

8/7 1 3.cy. Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 9/7 1 3.cy. Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells and 14/7 1? Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite.

Falconidae

Common Kestrel – Tårnfalk *Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus*

2/7 1 Almaty, 2/7 50 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 64 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 10 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 7 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 2 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 6 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 2 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 2 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 10 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 8/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 4 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 15 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 9/7 4 Qaraoy village, 10/7 and 11/7 2 ad. + 3 juv. Qaraoy village, 11/7 2 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 12/7 3 Shilik – Nurly, 12/7 1 Nurly-area, 13/7 9 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 14/7 8 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and

birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 15/7 3 May-Saz, 16/7 2 May-Saz, 16/7 6 May-Saz – Karakol,

17/7 1 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 4 Jeti-Ögüz, 17/7 4 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 5 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 1 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 20/7 1 Tamga – Son Kul, 21/7 1 Son Kul, 22/7 1 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok and 23/7 1 Ala Archa.

Red-footed Falcon – Aftenfalk *Falco vespertinus*

2/7 1 2.cy. Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 14 Observations from the train from dawn to arrival in Astana, 3/7 20 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 6/7 20 along the road from Karazhar to Astana Airport, 6/7 6 Astana-airport – seen from the terminal in the airport-lounge.

Merlin – Dværgfalk *Falco columbarius pallidus (lymani)*

3-5/7 2 ad. + 4 juv. Karazhar village, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 1 female + 2



Merlin, Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

males Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 1

Karazhar – Astana Airport, 15-16/7 1 breeding pair + 2 pull. May-Saz and 16/7 1 pair betw. May-Saz Pass and Karakol.

Hobby – Lærkefalk *Falco subbuteo subbuteo*

2/7 1 Almaty, 2/7 2 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 7/7 2 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 2 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 1 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 8/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 1 Qaraoy village, 10/7 1 Qaraoy village, 11/7 1 Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 12/7 2 Nurly-area, 14/7 2 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 16/7 1 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 1 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 1 Jeti-Ögüz, 17/7 2 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 2 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 18/7 1 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 1 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 19/7 1 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 1 Tamga – Son Kul, 22/7 2 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok and 23/7 1 Ala Archa.

Saker Falcon – Slagfalk *Falco cherrug (cherrug/milvipes)*

2/7 1 Almaty – Astana; observations from train and 8/7 1 Kolshengel, Taukum desert. The Kolshengel bird are interesting – not seen on previous visits.

Barbary Falcon – Berberfalk *Falco pelegrinoides babylonicus*

9/7 1 ad. Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 12/7 1 Nurly-area, 13/7 1 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 16/7 1 ad. Karakol and 17/7 1 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu.

Rallidae

Water Rail – Vandrikse *Rallus aquaticus aquaticus (korejwi)*

3/7 1 seen from the train outside Astana, 7/7 1 Lake Sorbulak, 17/7 1 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu and 17/7 1 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village.

Corn Crane – Engsnarre *Crex crex*

17/7 1 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 17/7 1 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18-19/7 3 Tamga and 20/7 1 Tamga.

Moorhen – Grønbenet Rørhøne *Gallinula chloropus chloropus*

2/7 1 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 1 seen from the train outside Astana, 5/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 2 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 1 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 8/7 4 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 5 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 1 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 12/7 1 Shilik – Nurly, 17/7 12 Jeti-Ögüz, 17/7 4 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu and 19/7 3 Saltlake Kara-Kel.

Common Coot – Blishøne *Fulica atra atra*



Merlin, Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

2/7 2 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 12 seen from the train before arrival Astana, 3/7 2 ad. + pull. Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 1 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 50 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 5 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 25 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 3 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 15 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 5 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 50 incl. several pull. Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 9/7 3 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 11/7 10 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 13/7 2 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 4 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 17/7 11 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 17/7 20 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 19/7 2 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 2 Son Kul, 21/7 210 Son Kul and 23/7 40 Fishponds NW of Bishkek..

Demoiselle Crane – Jomfrutrane *Grus virgo*
2/7 2 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 4 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 3 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 2 afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 5 ad. + 2 juv. Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 3 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 3 Kolshengel, Taukum desert and 13/7 2 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon.



Ibisbill, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Per Schiermacker-Hansen



Ibisbill, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Per Schiermacker-Hansen

Gruidae

Common Crane – Trane *Grus grus grus*

5/7 2 ad. + 1 pull. afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 12/7 2 ad. + 1 juv. Shilik – Nurly.

Otididae

Macqueen's Bustard

Chlamydotis macqueenii

8/7 3 Kolshengel, Taukum desert.

Haematopodidae

Oystercatcher –

Strandskade *Haematopus ostralegus longipes*

4/7 1 afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 4 afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 9/7 1 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells.

Recurvirostridae

Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii*

14/7 2 ad. + 3 juv. Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite and 16/7 8 (undoubtly some of the same birds seen two days ago) May-Saz – Karakol. Normal numbers.

Black-winged Stilt – Stylteløber

Himantopus himantopus himantopus

2/7 2 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 1 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 2 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 40 afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 7 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 40 ad. + pull. afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 2 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 4 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 40 Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 4 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 5 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 8 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 9/7 20 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 11/7 3 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 19/7 10 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga and 23/7 100 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Avocet – Klyde *Recurvirostra avosetta*
4 and 5/7 400+ Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 6/7 10 Karazhar – Astana Airport.

Burhinidae

Stone Curlew – Triel *Burhinus oedicephalus*

10/7 1 Qaraoy village and desert area north of the village.

Glareolidae

Collared Pratincole – Braksvale *Glareola pratincola*

4/7 2 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve. Quite unusual observation in Black-winged-country.

Black-winged Pratincole – Sortvinget *Braksvale Glareola nordmanni*

3/7 5 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 300 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 500 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 11 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 6/7 10 Karazhar – Astana Airport.

Charadriidae

Little Ringed Plover – Lille Præstekrave *Charadrius dubius curonicus*

4/7 10 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 10 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 5 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 9 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 9/7 6 Qaraoy village, 11/7 1 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 12/7 4 Shilik – Nurly, 18/7 1 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 19/7 1 ad. + 1 pull. Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 1 Son Kul, 21/7 3 Son Kul and 23/7 8 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Kentish Plover – Hvidbrystet Præstekrave *Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*

4/7 35 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 5/7 25 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve.

Lesser Sand Plover – Mongolsk Præstekrave *Charadrius mongolus pamirensis*

20/7 12 Son Kul and 21/7 16 Son Kul.

Greater Sand Plover – Ørkenpræstekrave *Charadrius leschenaultii crassirostris*

7/7 1 juv. Kolshengel, Taukum desert and 8/7 1 ad. Kolshengel, Taukum desert. Difficult finding Sand Plovers in middle of summer; in springtime they are more numerous and fairly visible.

Sociable Lapwing – Steppevibe *Vanellus gregarius*

4/7 6 ad. + 3 pull. Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve. Very good observations.



Sociable Lapwing, Kazakhstan. Photo Per Schiermacker-Hansen

Northern Lapwing – Vibe *Vanellus vanellus*

3/7 3 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 1 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 300 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 150 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 5 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 50 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 3 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 9/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 2 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 9/7 1 Qaraoy village, 11/7 1 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 12/7 8 Shilik – Nurly and 17/7 3 Jetti-Ögüz, 17/7 3 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jetti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu and 23/7 2 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.



Black-winged Pratincole, Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

Scolopacidae

Little Stint – Dværgryle *Calidris minuta*

4/7 10 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve. Incredible few; might be that we were at poor places in the reserve and 23/7 35 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Temminck's Stint – Temmincks Ryle

Calidris temminckii

19/7 1 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 21/7 5 Son Kul and 23/7 Bishkek – Ala Archa, 23/7 100 Fishponds n. of Bishkek.

Curlew Sandpiper – Krumnæbbet Ryle

Calidris ferruginea

4/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 23/7 21 Fishponds NW of Bishkek. The latter observation might be unusual high numbers.

Dunlin – Almindelig Ryle *Calidris alpina alpina*

4/7 5 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve.

Ruff – Brushane *Philomachus pugnax*

3/7 3 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 250 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 5 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 175 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn

Nature Reserve, 6/7 2 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 3 Lake Sorbulak, 20/7 3 Son Kul and 23/7 70+ Fishponds n. of Bishkek.

Common Snipe – Dobbeltbekkasin

Gallinago gallinago gallinago

17/7 4 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 21/7 1 Son Kul and 23/7 2 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Asian Dowitcher – Asiatisk Sneppeklire

Limnodromus semipalmatus

4/7 1 male in summer plumage Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve. An excellent observation – the bird were picked out among loads of Godwits, but all important field marks were noticed.

Black-tailed Godwit – Stor Kobbersneppe

Limosa limosa limosa

3/7 10 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 700 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 1000 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 6/7 7 Karazhar – Astana Airport.

Bar-tailed Godwit - Lille Kobbersneppe

Limosa lapponica lapponica

4/7 3 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve.



Black-winged Pratincole, Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

Whimbrel – Lille Regnspove *Numenius phaeopus phaeopus*

5/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve.

Eurasian Curlew – Stor Regnspove *Numenius arquata arquata and orientalis*

3/7 2 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 6 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 5/7 35 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve.

Note The population breeding in Kazakhstan is intermediate in plumage between the subspecies *arquata* and *orientalis*. These birds, sometimes treated as a separate subspecies ('suschkini'), are not separable from *orientalis* and hardly from *arquata* in the field (Thorup 2006) and therefore combined.

Spotted Redshank – Sortklire *Tringa erythropus*

4/7 3 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 4 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 7/7 2 Lake Sorbulak.

Common Redshank – Rødben *Tringa totanus totanus/ussuriensis*

4/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 50 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 15 Afternoon;

Astana Airport, 7/7 2 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 1 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 17/7 2 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 19/7 1 Tamga – Saltlake Karakel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 20 Son Kul, 21/7 30 Son Kul and 23/7 8 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Marsh Sandpiper – Damklire *Tringa stagnatilis*

4/7 5 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 8 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 5 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 4 Lake Sorbulak and 23/7 10 Fishponds n. of Bishkek.

Greenshank – Hvidklire *Tringa nebularia*

4/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 9/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 17/7 2 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 19/7 1 Tamga – Saltlake Karakel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 1 Son Kul, 21/7 2 Son Kul, 22/7 1 Son Kul – Bishkek and 23/7 14 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Green Sandpiper – Svaleklire *Tringa ochropus*

4/7 3 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 2 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 2

Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 5 Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 1 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 3 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 9/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 6 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 10/7 1 Qaraoy village, 11/7 2 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 12/7 2 Shilik – Nurly, 13/7 1 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 14/7 1 May-Saz campsite, 16/7 3 May-Saz – Karakol, 18/7 1 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay and 22/7 1 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Wood Sandpiper – Tinksméd *Tringa glareola*

4/7 2 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 1 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 4 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 2 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 9/7 4 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 11/7 1 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 13/7 1 Nurly; campsite, 16/7 2 May-Saz – Karakol, 19/7 1 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 21/7 1 Son Kul, 22/7 1 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok and 23/7 200 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Terek Sandpiper – Terekklire *Xenus cinereus*

4/7 1 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 1 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 19/7 4 Issyk Kul bay near Saltlake Kara-Kel, 20/7 1 Son Kul, 21/7 2 Son Kul and 23/7 1 Fishponds n. of Bishkek.

Common Sandpiper – Mudderklire *Actitis hypoleucos*

4/7 1 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 1 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 8 Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 2 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 9/7 7 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 13/7 1 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 14/7 2 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 14/7 3 May-Saz campsite, 15/7 3 May-Saz, 16/7 3 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 1 Leo-Kul; little lake betw.

Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 17/7 5 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 9 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 19/7 6 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 14 Son Kul, 21/7 11 Son Kul and 23/7 2 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Red-necked Phalarope – Odinshane *Phalaropus lobatus*

3/7 1 seen from train outside Astana, 4/7 131 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 5 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 8/7 2 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province.

Laridae

Great Black-headed Gull Stor Sorthovedet *Måge Larus ichthyaetus*

3/7 2 seen from train before arrival Astana, 3/7 2 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 8 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 6 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 42 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 4 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 10 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 1 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 20/7 1 ad. + 1 juv. Son Kul and 21/7 1 ad. Son Kul.

Little Gull – Dværgmåge *Larus minutus*

6/7 3 ad. Karazhar – Astana Airport.

Black-headed – Hættemåge Gull *Larus ridibundus*

3/7 50 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 1 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 3 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 50 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 1 ad. Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 50 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 50 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 20 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 40 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 9/7 4 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 11/7 3 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of



Lesser Sandplover ssp. pamirensis, Son Kul Lake, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Mic

Ile river, 12/7 3 Shilik – Nurly, 17/7 3 ad. + 1 juv. Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 12 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 19/7 20 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 21/7 400 Son Kul and 23/7 650 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Brown-Headed Gull *Larus brunicephalus*

21/7 1 ad. And possibly 1 imm. Son Kul. This species is quite a mystery in Kyrgyzstan. During summertime in the years 1995-1999 I usually encountered this species at Son Kul. Usually in July. Following a debate with other Kyrgyz birders I found that observations of this species were quite uncommon and rare – to my surprise. It didn't occur to my mind that this was the case and following I were decided to collect evidence of the species presence at Son Kul. In the past years it did not show its presence in summertime and it was difficult to obtain or rather detect the species presence. This summer however, we decided to focus on the species. It was not easy... Upon arrival in Son Kul we checked the gulls and found some odd looking immature Black-/Brown-Headed Gulls among the numerous Black-headed. Also Per were able to get pictures of one possible brown-headed. But the bird was identified as Black-headed. However both Per and I independently of each other saw one adult Brown-headed Gull among the Black-headed,

and since the identification of adult birds are rather straightforward it were this summers only presence of the species, and it remains a task to get the pictures. I do not think Brown-headed ever have been numerous at Son Kul, but eg. In 1995 and 1996 I noted 5-6 adults in July. So I am not surprised or unsafe about its presence at Son Kul, but numbers might be variable. The Black-headed Gulls show characters different from European birds, and especially the immature and juveniles are tricky. Be aware about this. More studies are needed to solve the species occurrence in Kyrgyzstan – and again this will be one of the tasks in future.

Slender-billed – Tyndnæbbet Måge Gull *Larus genei*

4/7 200 (good numbers!) Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 3 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 6/7 2 Karazhar – Astana Airport. Common on most places this summer in Korgalzhyn.

Common Gull *Larus canus heinei*

4/7 8 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 40 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 2 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 17/7 12 Jeti-Ögüz and 17/7 130 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village.



Caspian Tern, Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini barabensis*

3-5/7 c.200 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 6/7 15 Karazhar – Astana Airport.

Caspian Gull – Kaspisk Måge *Larus cachinnans*

7/7 20 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 2 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 9/7 1 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 9/7 1 Qaraoy village, 10/7 1 Qaraoy village and desert area north of the village, 17/7 4 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 19/7 6 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 19/7 8 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 5 Son Kul and 21/7 3 Son Kul. 23/7 Fishponds n. of Bishkek.

Sternidae

Little Tern – Dværgterne *Sternula albifrons albifrons*

4/7 10 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 2 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon and 5/7 12 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve.

Gull-billed Tern – Sandterne *Gelochelidon nilotica nilotica*

3/7 1 seen from train before arrival Astana, 3/7 20 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 200 (good numbers!) Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 70 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 2 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 2 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 2 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest and 11/7 1 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river. Also unusual high numbers in Korgalzhyn this summer.

Caspian Tern – Rovterne *Hydroprogne caspia*

3/7 2 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 8 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 7 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 12 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 13 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 35 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 6/7 3 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve.

Black Tern – Sortterne *Chlidonias niger niger*

3/7 10 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 15 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 3 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 20 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7

10 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 8/7 10 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 9/7 5 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells .

White-winged Black Tern – Hvidvinget Terne *Chlidonias leucopterus*

3/7 6 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 30 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 300 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 30 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 500 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 300 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 9/7 1 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells and 23/7 75 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Common Tern – Fjordterne *Sterna hirundo hirundo*

2/7 2 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 10 from train before arrival Astana, 3/7 2 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 30 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 20 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 10 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 40 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 20 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 2 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 8 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 3 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 22 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 5 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 9/7 8 Qaraoy village, 10/7 1 Qaraoy village, 11/7 2 Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 11/7 1 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 13/7 1 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 13/7 1 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 17/7 7 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 17/7 5 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 5 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 19/7 12 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 30 Son Kul, 21/7 130 Son Kul and 23/7 40 Fishponds NW of Bishkek..

Pteroclididae

Black-bellied Sandgrouse – Sortbuget Sandhøne *Pterocles orientalis arenarius*

7/7 10 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 34 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 9/7 15 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 11/7 10 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy and 12/7 1 Nurly-area.

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse – Spidshalet Sandhøne *Pterocles alchata caudacutus*

7/7 5 Kolshengel, Taukum desert and 8/7 2 Kolshengel, Taukum desert.

2/7 1 Almaty, 2/7 1 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 5 Arrival Astana;



Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

Pallas's Sandgrouse – Steppehøne
Syrrhaptes paradoxus

12/7 1 Shilik – Nurly and 12/7 3 Nurly-area. First bird were soloobservation, second bird too – but fortunately participants were able to see two birds well...

Columbidae

Rock Dove - Klippedue *Columba livia livia/neglecta*

13/7 2 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 18/7 5 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 4 Saltlake Kara-Kel and 22/7 1 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl, canyon near Kök-Moynok. Only assumed wild birds are mentioned – Feral Pigeons are common at most places.

Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris turkestanica*

14/7 1 May-Saz campsite and 15/7 5 May-Saz.

Yellow-eyed Stock Dove – Turkestandue
Columba eversmanni

8/7 28 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest and 9/7 15 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest. The Yellow-eyed Stock Dove is placed in the category 'Vulnerable Species' on the IUCN Red List 2004.

Wood Pigeon – Ringdue *Columba palumbus palumbus* (incl. *casiotis* in Tien Shan)

city, 6/7 1 Almaty, 13/7 1 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 1 Karakol, 14/7 1 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 17/7 1 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 19/7 1 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 19/7 1 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 22/7 1 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl, canyon near Kök-Moynok and 23/7 1 Ala Archa.

Collared Dove - Tyrkerdue *Streptopelia decaocto decaocto (stoliczkae)*

2/7 2 Almaty, 2/7 3 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 2 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 2 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 7/7 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 1 Lake Sorbulak – Kolshengel, Taukum desert, Almaty province, 9/7 2 Qaraoy village, 11/7 1 Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 11/7 2 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 12/7 2 Shilik – Nurly, 13/7 4 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 1 Karakol, 16/7 5 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 4 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 4 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 5 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 19/7 5 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 20/7 2 Tamga, 20/7 13 Tamga – Son Kul and 22/7 20 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl, canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Turtle Dove – Turteldue *Streptopelia turtur (arenicola)*

3/7 3 probably ssp. turtur seen from the train outside Astana, 7/7 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 2 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 11/7 1 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 12/7 3 Nurly-area, 13/7 1 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 14/7 2 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite and 18/7 2 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay. More sp-turtle doves were seen eg. 18/7 10 birds Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge.

Oriental Turtle Dove – Østlig Turteldue *Streptopelia orientalis meena*

2/7 2 Almaty – first birds seen by the group when I picked up the group in airport, Almaty!, 3/7 15 seen from the train before arriving Astana, 8/7 1 Kolshengel, 13/7 2 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 1 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 16/7 1 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 5 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 3 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village and 19/7 1 Saltlake Kara-Kel.

Laughing Dove – Palmedue *Streptopelia senegalensis ermanni*

2/7 2 Almaty, 9/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 12/7 5 Shilik – Nurly, 13/7 4 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 17/7 3 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 1 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay and 20/7 1 Tamga.

Cuculidae

Common Cuckoo – Gøg *Cuculus canorus canorus/subtelephonus*

2/7 1 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 2 seen from the train before arrival Astana, 7/7 3 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 4 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 15 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 11/7 5 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 13/7 1 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 2 Karakol, 15/7 1 May-Saz, 17/7 3 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 2 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 17/7 1 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 5 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 18/7 4 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 1 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 20/7 1 Tamga, 20/7 2 Tamga – Son Kul, 22/7 3 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok 23/7 2 Ala Archa.

Strigidae

Striated Scops Owl – Stribet

Dværghornugle *Otus brucei obsoletus*

8/7 4 calling – night between 8, and 9. July, Zhelturanga, Turanga forest.

Eurasian Scops Owl – Dværghornugle *Otus scops pulchellus*

8/7 1 at night Zhelturanga, Turanga forest and 18-20/7 1 calling in the nights Tamga.

Little Owl – Kirkeugle *Athene noctua (indigena/ bactriana/ orientalis)*

4/7 4 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 11/7 9 Qaraoy village, 11/7 1 Qaraoy – Shilik via road



Yellow-eyed Stock Dove, Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

north of Ile river and 18/7 1 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay.

Long-eared Owl – Skovhornugle *Asio otus otus*

7/7 1 Lake Sorbulak.

Short-eared Owl – Mosehornugle *Asio flammeus flammeus*

3/7 1 seen from the train before/outside Astana, 4/7 4 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon and 5/7 1 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve.

Caprimulgidae

European Nightjar – Natravn *Caprimulgus europaeus (europaeus/ unwini/sarudnyi)*

7/7 1 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest and 12/7 2 Nurly-area.

Apodidae

Alpine Swift – Alpesejler *Apus melba tuneti*

13/7 1 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon.

Common Swift – Mursejler *Apus apus/ pekinensis*

2/7 3 Almaty, 6/7 1 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 8/7 9 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 13/7 20 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 13/7 5 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 2 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 16/7 11 May-Saz, 17/7 20 Jeti-Ögüz, 17/7 50+ Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 50 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 18/7 30 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 122 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 30 Tamga – Son Kul and 22/7 21 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher – Isfugl *Alcedo atthis atthis*

7/7 2 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak and 7/7 3 Lake Sorbulak.



Long-legged Buzzard and Imperial Eagle, Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

Meropidae

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater – Grøn Biæder

Merops persicus persicus

9/7 18 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 10/7 5 Qaraoy village and desert area north of the village and 11/7 2 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river.

European Bee-eater – Biæder *Merops apiaster*

2/7 40+ Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 4 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 5 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 2 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 3 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 1 Lake Sorbulak – Kolshengel, Taukum desert, Almaty province, 9/7 5 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 11/7 2 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 13/7 2 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 13/7 1 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol and 23/7 10 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Coraciidae

European Roller – Ellekrage *Coracias garrulus garrulous/semenowi*

2/7 1 Almaty, 2/7 125 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 7/7 31 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 1 Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 15 Lake Sorbulak – Kolshengel, Taukum desert, Almaty province, 8/7 34 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 10 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 8 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 35 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 10/7 7 Qaraoy village, 11/7 22 Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 11/7 20 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 12/7 7 Shilik – Nurly, 12/7 3 Nurly-area, 13/7 1 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 17/7 5 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jetti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 22/7 13 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok 23/7 3 Ala Archa.

Upupidae

Hoopoe – Hærfugl *Upupa epops epops*

2/7 5 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 20 seen from train before/outside Astana, 7/7 2 Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 1 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 3 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 4 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 3

Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 35 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 9/7 2 Qaraoy village, 10/7 3 Qaraoy village, 10/7 1 Qaraoy village and desert area north of the village, 11/7 3 Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 12/7 4 Shilik – Nurly, 12/7 5 Nurly-area, 13/7 1 Nurly; campsite, 13/7 2 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 14/7 1 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 15/7 1 May-Saz, 17/7 2 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jetti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 1 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jetti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 17/7 2 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 2 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 18/7 1 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 23 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 19/7 2 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 1 Tamga, 20/7 7 Tamga – Son Kul and 22/7 2 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Picidae

White-winged Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucopterus*

8/7 8 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest and 9/7 5 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest.

Alaudidae

Calandra Lark - Kalanderlærke

Melanocorypha calandra psammochroa

5/7 1 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 200 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 100+ Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 11/7 14 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river and 20/7 1 Son Kul.

Bimaculated Lark – Østlig Kalanderlærke

Melanocorypha bimaculata torquata

7/7 30 Kolshengel, Taukum desert and 8/7 5 Kolshengel, Taukum desert. Few!



Hoopoe, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Mic

White-winged Lark – Hvidvinget Lærke

Melanocorypha leucoptera

3/7 3 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 27 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 15 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 8 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 1 Lake Sorbulak and 7/7 1 Kolshengel, Taukum desert.

Black Lark - Sortlærke *Melanocorypha yeltoniensis*

3/7 40 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 3 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 371 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 200 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 6/7 50 Karazhar – Astana.

Short-toed Lark – Korttået Lærke

Calandrella brachydactyla longipennis

4/7 3 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 650 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 300 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 9/7 5 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 10/7 50 Qaraoy village and desert area north of the village, 11/7 50 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 12/7 22 Shilik – Nurly, 12/7 60 Nurly-area, 13/7 2 Nurly; campsite and 19/7 1 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place.

Lesser Short-toed Lark - Dværglærke

Calandrella rufescens heinei

7/7 50 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 5 Kolshengel, Taukum desert and 19/7 1 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place.

Crested Lark - Toplærke *Galerida cristata (magna)*

7/7 1 Lake Sorbulak – Kolshengel, Taukum desert, Almaty province, 7/7 6 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 10 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 12/7 2 Nurly-area and 13/7 8 Nurly; campsite.

Sky Lark - Sanglærke *Alauda arvensis arvensis/dulcivox*

3/7 7 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 25 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 20 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 30 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 1 Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 12 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 2 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 11/7 5 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 13/7 1 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 15/7 2 May-Saz, 19/7 2 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 20/7 1 Tamga and 21/7 3 Son Kul.

Shore Lark - Bjerglærke *Eremophila alpestris (albigula)*

7/7 2 Lake Sorbulak – Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 13/7 10 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 15/7 1 May-Saz, 16/7 2 May-Saz, 20-21/7 15 Son Kul and 22/7 20 Son Kul – Bishkek.

Hirundinidae

Sand Martin - Digesvale *Riparia riparia riparia/innominata*

3/7 2 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 100+ Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 100 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 50 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 75 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 20 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 12 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 3 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 2 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 9/7 15 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 9/7 10 Qaraoy village, 10/7 2 Qaraoy village, 11/7 2 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 14/7 40 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 17/7 10 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area



Black Lark, Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 20 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 17/7 1 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 20 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 19/7 250+ Saltlake Kara-Kel, 19/7 50+ Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 22/7 20 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok and 23/7 20 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Pale Sand Martin *Riparia diluta diluta*

17/7 c.50 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village. Good and interesting observation – next spring I find the breeding site.

Crag Martin - Klippesvale *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

13/7 5 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 14/7 3 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 15/7 10 May-Saz, 16/7 1 May-Saz, 16/7 3 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 10 Jeti-Ögüz and 18/7 1 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge.

Barn Swallow - Landsvale *Hirundo rustica rustica*

2/7 10+ Almaty, 2/7 60+ Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 10+ Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 20 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature

Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 75 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 20 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 150 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 50 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 40 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 10 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 10 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 6 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 10 Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 5 Lake Sorbulak – Kolshengel, Taukum desert, Almaty province, 7/7 15 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 40 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 5 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 20 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 10 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 9/7 8 Qaraoy village, 10/7 7 Qaraoy village, 10/7 50 Qaraoy village and desert area north of the village, 11/7 40 Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 11/7 10 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 12/7 40 Shilik – Nurly, 12/7 12 Nurly-area, 13/7 40 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 13/7 13 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 2 Karakol, 14/7 5 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 16/7 14 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 ++ Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 + Jeti-Ögüz, 17/7 + Leo-Kul; little lake betw.



Barn Swallow Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 17/7 + Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 + Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 18/7 1 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 2 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 19/7 10 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 55 Tamga – Son Kul, 22/7 62 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok and 23/7 50 Fishponds NW of Bishkek..

House Martin - Bysvale *Delichon urbicum urbicum*

2/7 10+ Almaty, 2/7 10 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 11/7 3 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 12/7 1 Shilik – Nurly, 13/7 1 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 13/7 2 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 15/7 2 May-Saz, 16/7 4 May-Saz, 16/7 5 May-Saz – Karakol, 19/7 1 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 22/7 2 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok and 22-23/7 ++ Bishkek.

Red-rumped Swallow – Rødrygget Svale *Cecropsis daurica rufula (daurica)*

2/7 20 Almaty, 2/7 3 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 7/7 1 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak and 17/7 15 Jeti-Ögüz.

Motacillidae

Tawny Pipit - Markpiber *Anthus campestris*

3 and 4/7 3 Karazhar village, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 2 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 6/7 1 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 8/7 11 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 10/7 2 Qaraoy village and desert area north of the village, 11/7 1 juv. Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 12/7 14 Shilik – Nurly, 12/7 15 Nurly-area, 13/7 5 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon and 19/7 8 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place.

Tree Pipit - Skovpiber *Anthus trivialis haringtoni*

14-16/7 Breeding confirmed: one nest with 3 pull. + eggs and 2 sing. Specimens. 16/7 4 birds were caught (for DNA-bloodsample) and released May-Saz in central Tien-Shan; campsite.

Meadow Pipit – Engpiber *Anthus pratensis*

16/7 3 May-Saz.

Water Pipit - Bjergpiber *Anthus spinoletta blakistoni*

14/7 2 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 14/7 2 May-Saz campsite, 21/7 10 Son Kul and 22/7 10 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Western Yellow Wagtail – Gul Vipstjert *Motacilla flava flava 'beema' and feldegg*

2/7 2 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 30 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 50 Evening; Karazhar village, 4 and 5/7 +++ Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 150 Karazhar village – Astana, 8/7 1 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 9/7 10 *feldegg* Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 11/7 1 *feldegg* Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 11/7 1 *feldegg* Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 16/7 1 *feldegg* May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 1 *feldegg* Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-



Suu/Saruu, 20/7 2 Tamga – Son Kul and 23/7 3 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Citrine Wagtail - Citronvipstjert *Motacilla citreola citreola/calcarata*

5/7 4 citreola Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 14/7 2 calcarata May-Saz campsite, 15/7 8 May-Saz, 16/7 4 May-Saz, 17/7 5 calcarata Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 17/7 4 calcarata Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 20/7 10 calcarata Tamga – Son Kul, 21/7 1 calcarata Son Kul, 22/7 37 calcarata Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok and 23/7 1 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.



Citrine Wagtail ssp. calcarata Kyrgyzstan. Photo Mic

Grey Wagtail - Bjergvipstjert *Motacilla cinerea cinerea*

8/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 14/7 2 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 15/7 1 May-Saz, 16/7 7 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 1 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 2 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 18/7 4

Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge and 20/7 1 Tamga – Son Kul.

White Wagtail – Hvid Vipstjert *Motacilla alba alba and personata*

2/7 1 personata Almaty, 2/7 1 personata Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 8 alba and 1 (very surprisingly) personata Arrival Astana; city, 6/7 1 alba Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 2 ad. + 1 juv. personata Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 1 ad. + 1 juv. personata Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 9/7 2 personata Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 11/7 1 personata Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 12/7 1 personata Shilik – Nurly, 13/7 1 personata Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 13/7 1 personata Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 1 personata Karakol, 14/7 8 personata May-Saz campsite, 15/7 4 personata May-Saz, 16/7 3 personata May-Saz, 16/7 3 personata May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 3 personata Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 3 personata Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 18/7 5 personata Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 18/7 1 personata Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 6 personata Tamga – Saltlake Karakel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 2 personata Tamga, 20/7 6 personata Tamga – Son Kul, 22/7 9 personata Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok and 23/7 10 Fishponds NW of Bishkek.

Cinclidae

Dipper – Vandstær *Cinclus cinclus leucogaster*

14/7 3 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to

campsite, 16/7 2 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 1 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 1 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge and 22/7 2 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii tenuirostris*

14/7 1 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite. This lonely observation does not give the right impression of the species occurrence in Kyrgyzstan. It's a fairly common bird along the mountainous streams in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan.

Troglodytidae

Wren – Gærdesmutte *Troglodytes troglodytes (tianschanicus)*

16/7 1 May-Saz.

Prunellidae

Black-throated Accentor – Sortstrubet Jernspurv *Prunella atrogularis huttoni*

14/7 5 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 14/7 2 May-Saz campsite, 15/7 25 May-Saz, 16/7 25 May-Saz – Karakol and 18/7 1 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge. 23/7 Ala Archa.

Brown Accentor *Prunella fulvescens fulvescens*

15/7 1 May-Saz, 16/7 1 May-Saz and 21/7 4 Son Kul.

Altai Accentor *Prunella himalayana*

16/7 1 May-Saz – Karakol and 18/7 10 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge.

Turdidae

Rufous Bush Robin - Trænattergal *Cercotrichas galactotes familiaris*

10/7 13 Qaraoy village, 11/7 5 Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 12/7 4 Nurly-area and 13/7 1 Nurly; campsite.

Common Nightingale – Sydlig Nattergal *Luscinia megarhynchos hafizi*

8/7 1 sg. Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 18/7 5 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 19/7 2 Saltlake Kara-Kel and 19/7 1 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place.

White-tailed Rubythroat – Himalaya Rubinnattergal *Luscinia pectoralis ballioni*

14/7 4 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite and 15/7 5 ad. 2 pull. May-Saz.

Bluethroat - Blåhals *Luscinia svecica pallidogularis*

3/7 5 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 6 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 2 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 1 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 4 ad. + 2 juv. Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 6/7 1 sg. Karazhar – Astana Airport.

Eversmann's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythronotus*

15/7 8 May-Saz. 23/7 Ala Archa.



White-tailed Rubythroat, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Mic



Güldenstädt's Redstart, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Mic

Blue-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus coeruleocephalus*

14/7 1 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 17/7 1 Jeti-Ögüz and 23/7 12 Ala Archa.

Black Redstart - Husrødstjert *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*

14/7 2 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 18/7 1 female + 2 males Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 20/7 2 Tamga – Son Kul and 21/7 2 Son Kul.

Common Redstart - Rødstjert *Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus*

17/7 3 pairs – breeding in Jeti-Ögüz village.

Güldenstädt's Redstart – Hvidkronet Rødstjert *Phoenicurus erythrogaster grandis*

15/7 1 juv. May-Saz and 18/7 15 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge.

Siberian Stonechat – Sortstrubet Bynkefugl *Saxicola maurus maurus*

2/7 2 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 1 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 10 Astana –

Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 2 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 4 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 13/7 3 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 15/7 8 May-Saz, 17/7 3 Jeti-Ögüz, 18/7 1 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge and 21/7 4 Son Kul.

Isabelline Wheatear – Isabellastenpikker *Oenanthe isabellina*

7/7 20 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 40 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 9/7 30 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 10/7 36 Qaraoy village and desert area north of the village, 11/7 4 Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 11/7 7 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 12/7 8 Shilik – Nurly, 12/7 20 Nurly-area, 13/7 3 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 14/7 2 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 15/7 1 ad. + 3 juv. May-Saz, 16/7 3 May-Saz, 16/7 4 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 2 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 18/7 1 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 18/7 1 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 8 Tamga – Saltlake

Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 14



Common Redstart, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Mic

Tamga – Son Kul, 20/7 1 Son Kul, 21/7 3 Son Kul and 22/7 14 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl, canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Northern Wheatear - Stenpikker *Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe*

3/7 50 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 1 juv. Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 30 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 5 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 30 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 1 male Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 20 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 14/7 5 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 15/7 6 May-Saz, 18/7 2 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge and 21/7 9 Son Kul.

Pied Wheatear – Nonnestenpikker *Oenanthe pleschanka*

9/7 2 males Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 9/7 1 female Qaraoy village, 10/7 4 Qaraoy village, 10/7 2 juv. Qaraoy village and desert area north of the village,

12/7 1 Shilik – Nurly, 13/7 3 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 18/7 1 female + 1 male Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 18/7 1 male Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 10 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 19/7 7 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place and 22/7 2 males Son Kul – Bishkek; incl, canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Desert Wheatear - Ørkenstenpikker *Oenanthe deserti atrogularis*

7/7 1 Kolshengel, Taukum desert and 10/7 4 Qaraoy village and desert area north of the village.

Variable Wheatear – Østlig Nonnestenpikker *Oenanthe picata capistrata*

13/7 2 Sharyn Canyon. Seen well for safe ID; not common in this area.

Rock Thrush - Stendrossel *Monticola saxatilis*

14/7 1 male Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 15/7 1 male May-Saz and 22/7 1 juv. Son Kul – Bishkek; incl, canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Blue Rock Thrush - Blådrossel *Monticola solitarius pandoo*

13/7 1 male Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon and 15/7 2 May-Saz.

Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus turcestanicus*

16/7 1 May-Saz – Karakol.

Blackbird - Solsort *Turdus merula intermedius*

2/7 8 Almaty, 12/7 1 male Shilik – Nurly, 12/7 Nurly-area, 13/7 1 male Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 13/7 3 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 1 Karakol, 15/7 2 May-Saz, 16/7 5 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 3 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jetti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 18/7 6 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 19/7 2 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 20/7 13 Tamga and 22/7 2 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl, canyon near Kök-Moynok and 23/7 12 Ala Archa.

Mistle Thrush - Misteldrossel *Turdus viscivorus bonapartei*

13/7 2 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 2 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 14/7 1 May-Saz campsite, 15/7 5 May-Saz, 16/7 4 May-Saz, 16/7 7 May-Saz – Karakol and 18/7 2 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge.

Sylviidae

Cetti's Warbler - Cettisanger *Cettia cetti albiventris*

9/7 3 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 17/7 1 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 17/7 1 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 2 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay and 19/7 2 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place.

Grasshopper Warbler - Græshoppesanger *Locustella naevia straminea/mongolica*

4/7 1 sg. Karazhar village, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 14/7 1 sg. Karakol – May-Saz and 17/7 1 sg. Karkol – Tamga.

Savi's Warbler - Savisanger *Locustella luscinioides (fusca)*

3/7 3 sg. Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 4 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 5 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 1 sg. Karazhar,

Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 7/7 1 sg. Alamty – Lake Sorbulak.

Moustached Warbler - Tamarisksanger *Acrocephalus melanopogon mimica*

3/7 2 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 1 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon and 5/7 5 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve.

Paddyfield Warbler – Lille Rørsanger *Acrocephalus agricola*

3/7 3 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 5 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 2 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 4 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 6/7 5 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 17/7 6 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu.

Reed Warbler - Rørdanger *Acrocephalus scirpaceus fuscus*

3/7 1 ag. Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 2 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 3 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 1 sg. Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 17/7 1 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu.



Paddyfield Warbler, Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus brunnescens*

7/7 2 Lake Sorbulak and 9/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest.

Great Reed Warbler - Drosselrørsanger *Acrocephalus arundinaceus zarudnyi*

4/7 1 sg. Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler – Østlig Bleg Gulbug *Hippolais pallida elaeica*

8/7 1 breeding pair with 2 juv. Zhelturanga, Turanga forest.

Booted Warbler – Lille Gulbug *Hippolais caligata*

4/7 6 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 5/7 1 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve.

Sykes's Warbler - Steppegulbug *Hippolais rama*

7/7 1 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 2 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 5 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 6 Qaraoy village, 10/7 25+ Qaraoy village, 12/7 10 Nurly-area and 19/7 7 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel –

Tamga incl. Fairy Place.

Upcher's Warbler – Levantgulbug *Hippolais languida*

9/7 1 Qaraoy village.

Barred Warbler - Høgesanger *Sylvia nisoria*

17/7 2 ad. + 3 juv. Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village and 19/7 3 Saltlake Kara-Kel.

Lesser Whitethroat – Gærdesanger *Sylvia curruca halimodendri/minula* (Desert Lesser Whitethroat)

7/7 3 *halimodendri* Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 1 *halimodendri* + 25 sp. Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 5 *halimodendri* Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 15 *halimodendri* Qaraoy village, 10/7 7 *halimodendri* Qaraoy village, 12/7 5 Nurly-area, 13/7 1 Nurly; campsite, 13/7 2 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 1 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 18/7 8 sp. Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 19/7 12 sp. Saltlake Kara-Kel, 19/7 7 sp. Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place and 22/7 1 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok.



Barred Warbler, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Mic



Asian Desert Warbler, Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

8/7 3 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest and 16/7 1 May-Saz.

Asian Desert Warbler – Asiatisk Ørkensanger *Sylvia nana*

8/7 2 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 9/7 5 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 10/7 20 Qaraoy village and desert area north of the village, 11/7 3 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy and 12/7 2 Nurly-area.

Common Whitethroat - Torn-sanger *Sylvia communis (volgensis/ rubicola)*

9/7 2 Zhelturanga, 13/7 4 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 13/7 1 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 5 sg. Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 16/7 3 May-Saz – Karakol, 18/7 1 sg. Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay and 19/7 4 Saltlake Kara-Kel.

Ménétries's Warbler – Rosenbrystet Sanger *Sylvia mystacea turcmenica*

8/7 1 male Zhelturanga, Turanga forest. Actually this observation should make Mr Gavrilov eating his hat; as promised in 2003 if

2005-bird was probable, but this bird were proofed & sealed.

Greenish Warbler – Lundsanger *Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus*

9/7 30 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 13/7 1 sg. Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 15 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 14/7 15 May-Saz campsite, 15/7 c.200 May-Saz, 16/7 +++ May-Saz, 16/7 ++ May-Saz – Karakol, 18/7 ++ Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge and 23/7 150+ Ala Archa.

Hume's Warbler – Humes Sanger *Phylloscopus humei humei*

9/7 30 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 14/7 4 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 14/7 4 May-Saz campsite, 15/7 c.200 May-Saz, 16/7 ++ May-Saz and 18/7 ++ Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge and 23/7 50+ Ala Archa.

Orange-barred Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher*

15/7 1 May-Saz in central Tien-Shan; campsite. This observation is unusual, and first record of the species is seen in Kyrgyzstan. Unfortunately we did not obtain photographs or were able to catch it the following day. However the species are easy to identify in the field; a typical Leaf-warbler with obvious buff-orange wing-bars. Observed by very experienced birder with previous experience with this species. However it's difficult to add it to the "official" Kyrgyzstan-list – in these years we find new species for the country almost each year, and if there should be any way of include and maintain an official-bird list, its necessary to document such observations with minimum photographs or similar recordings. Otherwise it's an impossible task.

Sulphur-bellied Warbler – Stensanger *Phylloscopus griseolus*

15/7 5 May-Saz and 16/7 3 sg. May-Saz.

Goldcrest - Fuglekonge *Regulus regulus tristis*

15/7 13 May-Saz, 16/7 11 May-Saz, 18/7 2 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge and 23/7 3 Ala Archa.

White-browed Tit Warbler *Leptopoecile sophiae sophiae*

16/7 heard – few birds; maybe only a single May-Saz and 23/7 4 Ala Archa.

Timaliidae

Bearded Tit – Skægmejse *Panurus biarmicus russicus*

3/7 20 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 25 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 40 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 30 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 25 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 reg. Karazhar – Astana Airport and 17/7 1 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu.

Paridae

Azure Tit – Azurmejse *Parus cyanus koktalensis/tianschanicus*

7/7 3 *koktalensis* Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 1 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 4 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 10/7 + Qaraoy village, 17/7 2 Jeti-Ögüz, 18/7 10 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay and 19/7 2 Tamga – Saltilake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place.

Great Tit – Musvit *Parus major major*

2/7 70 Almaty, 7/7 12 Lake Sorbulak, 9/7 6 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 14/7 2 Karakol, 17/7 3 Jeti-Ögüz, 17/7 6 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 11 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay 23/7 1 Ala Archa.

Turkestan Tit *Parus bokharensis bokharensis/ferghanensis/turkestanicus*

8/7 17 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 7 Zhelturanga and 11/7 2 Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy.

Rufous-naped Tit *Parus rufonuchalis*

23/7 10 Ala Archa.



Rufous-naped Tit, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Per Schiermacker-Hansen

Coal Tit – Sortmejse *Periparus ater rufipectus*

14/7 2 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 15/7 14 May-Saz, 16/7 8 May-Saz, 17/7 4 Jeti-Ögüz, 18/7 6 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge and 23/7 13 Ala Archa.

Songar Tit *Poecile songarus songarus*

14/7 1 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite and 18/7 10 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge.

Tichodromadidae

Wallcreeper – Murløber *Tichodroma muraria nepalensis*

21/7 1 Son Kul.

White-crowned Penduline Tit *Remiz coronatus coronatus*

17/7 1 call. Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu.



Azure Tit, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Mic

Oriolidae

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus/kundoo*

10/7 1 Qaraoy village, 11/7 1 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 12/7 2 Nurly-area and 17/7 1 male Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul WNW of Saruu village. Kyrgyz birds have to be recognised as being *Oriolus oriolus* or new split *Oriolus kundoo*

Laniidae

Turkestan Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides*

5/7 5 'karelini-type' Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 7 'karelini-type' Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 8/7 1 'karelini/phoenicuroides-type' Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 9/7 3 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 9/7 Qaraoy village, 11/7 1 pair with 3 juv. Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 12/7 4 Shilik – Nurly, 12/7 8 Nurly-area, 13/7 4 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 17/7 1 male Jetti-Ögüz, 17/7 7 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 2 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 19/7 1 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 19/7 35 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 4 Tamga, 20/7 26 Tamga – Son Kul and 22/7 2 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Lanius schach erythronotus

2/7 2 Almaty – Astana; observations from train and 22/7 10 ad. + 2 juv. Burana village.

Lesser Grey Shrike – Rosenbrystet Tornskade *Lanius minor*

2/7 c.150 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 3 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 10 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 5/7 6 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 3 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 19 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 11/7 7 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 12/7 7 Shilik – Nurly, 12/7 3 Nurly-area, 17/7 10 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jetti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 19/7 1 Saltlake Kara-Kel and 22/7 30 ad. + 3 juv. Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Steppe Grey Shrike – Steppetornskade *Lanius pallidirostris*

8/7 5 + 1 unreg. ssp Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 9/7 2 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 10/7 9 Qaraoy village and desert area north of the village, 11/7 2 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 12/7 7 Nurly-area and 13/7 1 Nurly; campsite.



Pander's Ground-jay, Kazakhstan. Photo Per Schiermacker-Hansen

border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 1 Karakol, 14/7 1 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 14/7 3 May-Saz campsite, 15/7 2 May-Saz, 16/7 2 May-Saz, 16/7 2 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 4 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 1 Jeti-Ögüz, 17/7 3 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 17/7 2 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul WNW of Saruu village, 18/7 15 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 19/7 7 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 20/7 20 Tamga and 22/7 10 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok and 23/7 7 Ala Archa.

Corvidae

Magpie – Husskade *Pica pica bactriana*

2/7 6 Almaty, 2/7 50+ Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 140+ seen from the train; morning to arrival in Astana, 3/7 20 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 10 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 1 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 6/7 1 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 12 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 6 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 7 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 5 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 8/7 4 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 8 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 1 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 9/7 4 Qaraoy village, 11/7

3 Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 12/7 5 Shilik – Nurly, 13/7 3 Kyrgyz

Pander's Ground-jay *Podoces panderi ilensis* (endemic subspecies)

10/7 2 juv. desert area north of Qaraoy village. This observation were nothing less than KAIF!



Pander's Ground-jay, Kazakhstan. Photo Hans Rytter

Nutcracker – Nøddekrige *Nucifraga caryocatactes rotschildi*

14/7 1 May-Saz campsite, 15/7 2 May-Saz and 16/7 2 May-Saz.

Yellow-billed Chough - Alpeallike *Pyrrhocorax graculus forsythi*

14/7 10 May-Saz campsite, 15/7 3 May-Saz and 16/7 10 May-Saz.

Red-billed Chough – Alpekrage *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax centralis*

14/7 25 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 14/7 45 May-Saz campsite, 15/7 60 May-Saz, 16/7 50 May-Saz, 16/7 18 May-Saz – Karakol, 18/7 25 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge and 23/7 Ala Archa.

Western Jackdaw – Allike *Corvus monedula soemmerringii*

2/7 5 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 5 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 6 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village,

Saruu village, 18/7 ++ Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay and 21/7 10 Son Kul.

Rook – Råge *Corvus frugilegus frugilegus*

2/7 ++ Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 275+ seen from the train; morning - arrival Astana, 4/7 150 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 100 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 2 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 300 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 40 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 8/7 15 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 50 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 11/7 c.1000 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 12/7 c.1000 Shilik – Nurly, 13/7 c.200 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 13/7 +++ Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 17/7 250 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 500 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 17/7 40 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 ++ Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 19/7 ++ Tamga –



Rose-colored Starlings, Kazakhstan Photo Mic

4/7 10 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 12/7 25 Shilik – Nurly, 13/7 ++ Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 17/7 30 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of

Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 ++ Tamga, 20/7 ++ Tamga – Son Kul, 21/7 300 Son Kul and 22/7 300 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Carion Crow – Sortkrage *Corvus corone orientalis*

2/7 5+
 Almaty
 –
 Astana;
 observat
 ions
 from
 train,
 5/7 2
 Korgalz
 hyn
 Nature
 Reserve
 ;
 morning
 :
 different
 location
 s than
 afternoo
 n, 6/7 1
 Karazha



Common Starling juvenile ssp porophryonotus, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Mic



r – Astana Airport, 7/7 3 (1 hybride betw. C.c.o. and Hooded crow C.c.s.) Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 1 Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 6 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 10/7 2 Qaraoy village, 11/7 4 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 13/7 3 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 50 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 14/7 5 May-Saz campsite, 15/7 10 May-Saz, 16/7 4 May-Saz, 16/7 ++ May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 10 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 2 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 18/7 C.10 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 2 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 19/7 1 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 c.200 Tamga – Son Kul and 23/7 8 Ala Archa.

Hooded Crow – Gråkrage *Corvus cornix sharpii*

3/7 55 seen from the train; morning - arrival Astana, 4/7 7 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 10 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 10 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 20 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 2 Karazhar – Astana Airport and 8/7 3 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province.

Brown-necked Raven - Ørkenravn *Corvus ruficollis ruficollis*

11/7 11 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy.

Common Raven – Ravn *Corvus corax corax/ tibetanus*

2/7 (13) Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 4/7 4 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 7/7 2 Lake Sorbulak – Kolshengel, Taukum desert, Almaty province, 8/7 2 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 9/7 2 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 14/7 3 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 18/7 6 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 1 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 19/7 2 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 4 Tamga – Son Kul, 20/7 1 Son Kul, 21/7 12 Son Kul and 22/7 7 Son Kul – Bishkek.

Sturnidae

Common Starling – Stær *Sturnus vulgaris poltaratskyi & porphyronotus*

2/7 50+ Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 5 Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 3 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 4/7 10 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 4/7 1000 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 5/7 10 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 400 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 10 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 7/7 11 Lake Sorbulak, 9/7 15 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 12/7 12 Shilik – Nurly, 13/7 600 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 14/7 1 Karakol, 17/7 c.200 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 17/7 c.200 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 2 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the

upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 23 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 15 Tamga – Son Kul and 22/7 25 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl, canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Rose-coloured Starling – Rosenstær
Sturnus roseus

2/7 2000+ Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 65 observations from the train; morning - arrival Astana, 7/7 650 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 12 Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 460 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 1000+ Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 9/7 20 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 90 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 9/7 10 Qaraoy village, 11/7 16 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 12/7 15 Shilik – Nurly, 13/7 150+ Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 17/7 1 ad. Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village and 19/7 8 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place.

east of Qaraoy – Shilik via road north of Ile river, 12/7 40 Shilik – Nurly, 13/7 2 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 13/7 12 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 6 Karakol, 14/7 1 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 16/7 10 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 16 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 22 Jeti-Ögüz, 17/7 8 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 ++ Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 18/7 ++ Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 50 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 22/7 66 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl, canyon near Kök-Moynok and 23/7 10 Ala Archa.



Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis tristis*

2/7 ++ Almaty, 2/7 300+ Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 6 observations from the train; morning - arrival Astana, 6/7 ++ Almaty, 7/7 26 Almaty – Lake Sorbulak, 8/7 10 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province, 8/7 2 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 9 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 10/7 1 Qaraoy village, 11/7 10 Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 11/7 15 Artesian wells

Passeridae

Saxaul Sparrow *Passer ammodendr nigricans*

8/7 7 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 11 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 10 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 9/7 3 Qaraoy village, 10/7 11 Qaraoy village, 10/7 5 Qaraoy village and desert area north of the village and 11/7 1 Qaraoy village +



Bluethroat juvenile, Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy.

House Sparrow – Gråspurv *Passer domesticus domesticus & bactrianus*

2/7 30 Almaty, 2/7 + Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 + Arrival Astana; city, 3/7 + Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 3 Evening; Karazhar village, 5/7 15 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 6/7 3 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 7/7 12 Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 10 *bactrianus* Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 1 female and 2 males Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 11/7 10 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 12/7 35 Shilik – Nurly, 13/7 5 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 50 Karakol, 17/7 75 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 19/7 10 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 20/7 10 Tamga and 22/7 30 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Spanish Sparrow – Spansk Spurv *Passer hispaniolensis transcaspicus*

22/7 200+ Burana village; Son Kul – Bishkek.

Tree Sparrow – Skovspurv *Passer montanus montanus & dilutus*

2/7 2 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 10 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 1 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 10 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 40 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 9/7 4 Qaraoy village, 10/7 2 Qaraoy village, 12/7 5 Shilik – Nurly, 12/7 1 Nurly-area, 13/7 3 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 14/7 3 Karakol, 14/7 1 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 17/7 1 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 2 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 18/7 17 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 19/7 5 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 20/7 4 Tamga and 22/7 8

Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Rock Sparrow – Stensåurv *Petronia petronia intermedia*
19/7 50+ Saltlake Kara-Kel.

Snowfinch – Snefinke *Montifringilla nivalis alpicola*
18/7 5 Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge and 21/7 18 Son Kul.

Fringillidae

Common Chaffinch – Bogfinke *Fringilla coelebs coelebs*

15/7 1 female (breeding?) May-Saz.

Red-fronted Serin – Rødpandet Irisk *Serinus pusillus*

14/7 15 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 14/7 6 May-Saz campsite, 15/7 15 May-Saz, 16/7 20 May-Saz, 17/7 5 Jeti-Ögüz, 18/7 25 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 20/7 1 Tamga – Son Kul, 21/7 2 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok and 23/7 8 Ala Archa.

Greenfinch – Grønirisk *Chloris chloris turkestanicus*

2/7 1 ad. + 1 juv. Almaty, 2/7 1 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 13/7 1 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 13/7 1 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 17/7 8 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 1 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 20/7 5 Tamga and 22/7 3 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl. canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Goldfinch – Stillits *Carduelis carduelis paropanisi/subulata*

12/7 3 Shilik – Nurly, 13/7 1 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 13/7 3 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 1 Karakol, 14/7 4 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 16/7 5 May-Saz, 16/7 1 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 14 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 2 Jeti-Ögüz, 18/7 12 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 18/7 2 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge and 20/7 1 Tamga – Son Kul.

Linnet – Tornirisk *Carduelis cannabina bella*

3/7 3 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 13/7 5 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 14/7 3 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 16/7 2 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 12 Jeti-Ögüz, 17/7 ++ Leo-Kul; little lake

14/7 70 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 15/7 40 May-Saz, 16/7 8 May-Saz, 16/7 4 May-Saz – Karakol, 18/7 2 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge and 22/7 3 Son Kul – Bishkek..

Brandt's Mountain Finch *Leucosticte brandti brandti*



Goldfinch, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Mic

betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 19/7 2 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 21/7 1 Son Kul and 22/7 1 Son Kul – Bishkek; incl, canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Twite – Bjergirisk *Carduelis flavirostris kirghizorum*

4/7 50 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve and 5/7 20 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve..

Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola altaica*

16/7 16 May-Saz – Karakol and 18/7 12 Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge.

Common Crossbill – Lille Korsnæb *Loxia curvirostra (tianschanica)*

15/7 1 May-Saz and 18/7 10 Barskaun Gorge.



Desert Finch, Kazakhstan. Photo Mic

Desert Finch – Ørkenfinke *Rhodospiza obsoleta*

12/7 c.70 Nurly-area and 13/7 10 Nurly; campsite..

Mongolian Finch – Ørkendompap *Eremopsaltria mongolicus*

13/7 8 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 19/7 c.200 Saltlake Kara-Kel and 20/7 15 Tamga – Son Kul.

Common Rosefinch – Karmindompap *Carpodacus erythrinus ferghanensis*

13/7 4 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 13/7 3 Kyrgyz border – Karakol; incl. Karakol, 14/7 11 sg. Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite, 14/7 4 May-Saz campsite, 15/7 10 May-Saz, 16/7 10 May-Saz, 16/7 2 May-Saz – Karakol, 17/7 7 Jeti-Ögüz, 17/7 2 Wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 18/7 4 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay, 18/7 2 Barskaun Gorge; incl. Arabel-area in the upper Barskaun Gorge, 19/7 1 Saltlake Kara-Kel, 19/7 1 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 6 Tamga – Son Kul, 21/7 1 Son Kul, 22/7 3 Son Kul – Bishkek;



Mongolian Finch, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Mic

incl, canyon near Kök-Moynok and 23/7 23 Ala Archa.

Red-mantled Rosefinch *Carpodacus rhodochlamys*/Blyth's Rosefinch *Carpodacus grandis*

16/7 1 May-Saz – Karakol and 23/7 4 Ala Archa.

Spotted Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus severtzovi*

15/7 1 May-Saz.

White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes carnipes*
23/7 2 Ala Archa.

Emberizidae

Pine Bunting – Hvidkindet Værling
Emberiza leucocephalos leucocephalos
14/7 9 Karakol – May-Saz; incl. May-Saz Pass and birds seen along the Sary-Jaz range to campsite and 16/7 2 May-Saz – Karakol.

White-capped Bunting *Emberiza stewarti*
22/7 1 male canyon near Kök-Moynok.

Rock Bunting – Klippeværling *Emberiza cia par*
13/7 4 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon and 17/7 4 Jeti-Ögüz.

Grey-necked Bunting – Bjerghortulan
Emberiza buchanani neobscura
13/7 1 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 19/7 4 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place and 20/7 15 Tamga – Son Kul.

Reed Bunting – Rørspurv *Emberiza schoeniclus incognita/ pyrrhuloides/ harterti*
2/7 1 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 10 Evening; Karazhar village, 4/7 3 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations than afternoon, 5/7 4 Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; morning: different locations

than afternoon, 5/7 10 Afternoon; Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 2 Karazhar, Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve, 6/7 1 Karazhar – Astana Airport, 8/7 2 Kolshengel, Taukum desert – Zhelturanga, Almaty province and 17/7 2 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu.

Red-headed Bunting – Brunhovedet Værling
Emberiza bruniceps
2/7 3 Almaty – Astana; observations from train, 3/7 3 Astana – Korgalzhyn Nature Reserve; Karazhar village, 3/7 Evening; Karazhar village, 7/7 1 Lake Sorbulak, 7/7 6 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 3 Kolshengel, Taukum desert, 8/7 25 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 3 Zhelturanga, Turanga forest, 9/7 13 Zhelturanga – Qaraoy; incl. stop at artesian wells, 11/7 2 Qaraoy village + transfer Qaraoy to artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 11/7 4 Artesian wells east of Qaraoy, 12/7 8 Nurly-area, 13/7 5 Nurly – Kyrgyz border at Kegen-Qarqara; via Kökpek and Sharyn Canyon, 18/7 1 Tamga; incl. village and Tamga-Bay and 20/7 1 Tamga – Son Kul.

Corn Bunting – Bomlærke *Emberiza calandra buturlini*
17/7 5 Karakol – Tamga; excl. Jeti-Ögüz, Leo-Kul and wetland-area adjacent to the bay of Issyk-Kul wnw of Saruu village, 17/7 3 Jeti-Ögüz, 17/7 2 Leo-Kul; little lake betw. Jeti-Ögüz and Kyzul-Suu/Saruu, 19/7 5 Tamga – Saltlake Kara-Kel – Tamga incl. Fairy Place, 20/7 4 Tamga and 20/7 3 Tamga – Son Kul.

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Black Redstart, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Mic

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Badger, Kazakhstan. Photo Per Schiermacker-Hansen



Turkestan Shrike ssp phonicuroides, Kyrgyzstan. Photo Mic

Fuglelivet i Kasakhstan og Kirgistan

Af Michael Westerbjerg Andersen

Kirgistan er en af de tidligere sovjetrepublikker, og i mange år var Kirgistan stort set hermetisk lukket for udlændinge. Landets rige mineralforekomster og placering betød, at tophemmelige fabrikker og militær baser kunne operere uforstyrret. Det betød også, at kirgiserne i mere end 50 år levede en isoleret og hensygnende tilværelse. Russernes tilstedeværelse betød også fremskridt med velfungerende hospitalsvæsen, jobs, forbedret infrastruktur og billige stats subsidierede fødevarer. I januar 1991 blev Kirgisien en selvstændig demokratisk republik og medlem af Sammenslutningen af Uafhængige stater (SNG), men det betød også at økonomien i landet kollapsede præcis som det var tilfældet i andre USSR-republikker. I dag er Kirgistan efter vestlig målestok fattigt; i kølvandet på uafhængigheden fulgte et kraftigt fald i produktion og levestandard. Selv om forfatningen er baseret på formelle regler, er den politiske beslutningsproces præget af stamme- og klan netværk samt af modsætninger mellem befolkningsgrupper i nord og syd, såvel som mellem etniske og russiske kirgisere. Kirgistan er et multietnisk samfund. 55 % af indbyggerne er etniske kirgisere, mens russere, usbekere og ukrainere udgør mindretallet; hertil kommer en lang række små lokale folkeslag foruden mindre deporterede grupper af volgatyskere. Fakta: Kirgisien, Kirgistan eller Kirgisistan. Tilsyneladende er der intet officielt dansk navn for landet, hvorfor de tre navne anvendes i flæng. Kirgisien blev anvendt af f. eks Scherfig i hans bog Hos Kirgiserne fra 1963, og er direkte afledt af det tyske navn for landet. Et fint navn som desværre ikke har vundet indpas i medierne, der oftest anvender det vederstyggelige Kirgisistan. Kirgistan er en fin oversættelse fra det russisk og er et udmærket kompromis, som jeg foreslår anvendt.

Traditionelt har de etniske kirgisere altid levet som nomader. Kirgistan er romantisk blevet kaldt et land af vilde ryttere, men vildskaben er for længst aftaget - overskygget af en sagnomspunden gæstfri og stolt befolkning. Efter Sovjetunionens ophør fik nomadekulturen en opblomstring, og mange etniske kirgisere vendte tilbage til deres oprindelige levevis, som bjergnomader. De store statsbrug var for vidtløftige med alt for store plantager og masser af får. En fremmed

produktion som de etniske kirgisere aldrig blev tilhængere af. De tilsyneladende endeløse vidder af frodige højsletter udgør stadig vigtige græsningsområder for heste, kvæg, fedthalefår, geder og yakokser. Græsningsområderne er statsejede men styret og fordelt af de lokale klaner og familier ifølge traditioner og gamle vedtægter. Et delikat socioøkonomisk system der fungerer. I slutningen af maj forlader nomadefamilierne deres boliger i dalene og flytter med deres jurter (telte af filt) og hjerne op til græsningsområderne over 3.000 m.o.h. Her tilbringer de hele sommeren.

Kirgistan er beliggende i midten af Asien, lige over Indien og med grænse til Kina, Kasakhstan, Usbekistan og Tadsjikistan. Landets beliggenhed i den nordlige del af Himalaya betyder, at flere store bjergkæder præger landskabet; mod øst Tien-Shan (Himmelbjergene, med tinder over 7.000m) og dets udløbere Ala Too hhv. nord (ud mod den store steppe i Kasakhstan) og syd for den store Issyk Kul bjergsø. I landets sydvestlige del på grænsen til Tadsjikistan ligger den anden store bjergkæde, Pamir. Det siger næsten sig selv, at avifaunanen er domineret af bjergfugle, men hvor der er bjerge, er der dale, og her har kirgiserne opdyrket den frugtbare jord. Landbrugsområderne ligger især mod nord omkring søen Issyk-Kul, ved hovedstaden Bishkek og på de subtropiske skrånninger i Ferghanadalen i syd. De steder, hvor kunstvanding var mulig, blev der indtil Sovjetunionens ophør dyrket sukkerroer, opium-valmuer (til medicinsk formål, selvfølgelig...) og bomuld. I dag henligger store områder som brakmarker, og det begunstiger selvfølgelig fuglelivet. I Sovjettiden var størstedelen af Kirgistan lukket for vestlige fugleinteresserede og de få ornitologer som besøgte Kirgistan, blev eskorteret til fuglelokaliteter i nærheden af hovedstaden Bishkek (tidl. Frunze). Glimrende fuglelokalitet, men bestemt ikke fyldestgørende for kirgistanens



fantastiske avifauna. Det er heldigvis anderledes i dag om end møgbesværligt at færdes udenfor det begrænsede vejnet, hvor besøgende i større omfang kan færdes frit.

Fakta: Efter Sovjetunionens kollaps steg antallet af heste igen. Hoppens mælk anvendes til fremstillingen af nationaldrikken kumys, som er gæret hoppemælk. Bliver almindeligvis opbevaret i en pose af fåremave. Smagen varierer, men kan beskrives i bedste fald beskrives som syrlig og lettere mousserende mælkeprodukt med et alkoholindhold som øl. Undertegnede er ikke den store tilhænger af drikken og har ved flere tilfælde smagt kumys der var nærmere at betegne som galdesurt opstød tilsat rygsvømmende grønne hårboller...

Bjerge, halvørken, ekstensivt opdyrket agerland, steppe, skove osv. betyder at Kirgistan har rigeligt at byde på og fuglelivet kan betegnes som en cocktail af arter fra det sydlige Europa, Mellemøsten, sydlige Sibirien og stepperne mod nord. Adskillige områder er stadig "hvide pletter" på det ornitologiske landkort og udbredelseskortene i denne del af verden er mildt sagt ikke ajourført om nogensinde udarbejdet. Alene i Kirgistan har vi de sidste par år fundet 1-2 nye arter for landet pr tur... Det fortæller noget om potentialet, og hvorfor det er et så afsindigt spændende ornitologisk. Et stort antal fuglearter lever i dette barske højland og bjergene er hjemsted for mange centralasiatiske specialiteter: Altairødstjert, Little Forktail, Blue headed Redstart, Brandt's Mountain Finch, Brown Accentor, Brown Dipper, Godlewski's Bunting, Himalayan Accentor, Himalayagrib, Himalaya Rubinnattergal, Himalayan Snowcock, Humes Sanger, Hvidkronet Rødstjert, Ibisbill, Mongolsk Præstekrave ssp. pamirensis, Plain Mountain Finch, Red-mantled Rosefinch, Songar Tit, Sortstrubet Jernspurv, Stensanger, Stor Karmindompap, White-browed Tit Warbler, White-capped Bunting, Brunhovedet Værling, White-winged Grosbeak, o.m.a. Hertil kommer bjergfugle som vi også kender fra de europæiske bjerge: Duehøg, Vandrefalk, Alpekrage, Alpeallike, Ravn, Bjergpiber, Tretået Spætte, Vandstær, Alpejernspurv, Husrødstjert, Bjergirisk, Bjergvipstjert (karakterfugl), Lille Korsnæb, Blådressel, Misteldressel, Stendressel, Murløber, Snefinke, Klippeværling, Nøddekrige, Chukarhøne mm

Kirgistan landskaber og natur er hjemsted for unikke fugle og pattedyr. Den mest enestående skabning er Sneleoparden. Ingen

ved præcis antallet af tilbageværende sneleoparder, men Kirgistan rummer måske klodens vigtigste bestand. I min "verden" er det ufatteligt at der ikke er mere fokus på naturområder som rummer så dyrebare skatte. Sneleoparder forekommer kun i intakte levesteder, og tilstedeværelsen af sneleoparder vil altid være en super indikation af intakt natur; områder med et rigt dyreliv. Stort set alle andre steder på kloden kæmper goder kræfter på at beskytte eller restaurere ødelagte naturområder, og derfor er det bagvendt logik, at ingen af de store naturorganisationer deltager i arbejdet på at bevare og beskytte Kirgistan unikke og intakte naturområder. I århundreder har nomaderne levet et liv i nær kontakt og harmoni med naturen, og selv om naturbevarelse på mange måder er en selvfølge i den kirgisiske kultur, så er der grund til at være på vagt. Overgræsning, og andre forstyrrelser af gode fuglesteder er en reel trussel, og derfor arbejder vi på at udbrede kendskabet og beskytte centralasiens unikke fauna og landskaber. Et af de tiltag vi arbejder med pt er at etablere en centralasiatisk conservation-group i lighed med den organisation som er succesfuldt etableret i Kaukasus. "Vi" er en håndfuld europæiske ornitologer, primært hollandske, tyske og undertegnede. Der er ingen ornitologiske organisationer i de centralasiatiske lande, eller Ngo'er i det hele taget. Derfor er der brug for alle kræfter, skulle du have lyst til at deltage i arbejdet så kontakt mig gerne – der er masser at gå i gang med.

Nabolandet Kasakhstan er et gigantisk land på størrelse med hele Europa og spænder mere vidt både landskabsmæssigt og ornitologisk. 498 fuglearter er truffet i Kasakhstan fordelt, over mange landskabstyper, og selv om bjergene i det sydøstlige hjørne rummer nogle af de samme bjergfugle som i Kirgistan, er det især steppen og halvørkenen i syd som tiltrækker ornitologer fra hele verden. I Kasakhstan er det nok steppefuglene som de fleste ornitologer tænker på; især de berømte græsstepper i den nordlige og centrale del. Her er der højt til loftet, så at sige, og udsynet nærmest uendeligt. Det er hjemsted for den stærkt truede Steppevibe samt superarter som: Hvidvinget Lærke, Sortlærke, Sortvinget Braksvale, Jomfrutrane, Krøltoppet Pelikan, Steppehøg, Stor Sorthovedet Måge, Hvidvinget Terne, Lille Gulbug mm.

Dertil kommer et hav af vandfugle: ænder, hejrer og vadefugle – ofte i stort tal; eksempelvis træffes op til 800.000 odinshøns på gennemtræk i maj i det berømte Korgalzhyn

Reservat vest for hovedstaden Astana. I den sydlige landsdel findes flere unikke biotoper: flere typer ørken, nedbørsfattige højdedrag med flotte røde sandsten. Her er især den mytiske Steppehøne som trækker. Arten forekommer også fåtalligt i Kirgistan, men har sit hovedudbredelsesområde i det sydlige Kasakhstan og naboområderne mod øst – Kina. Halvørkenen er hjemsted for McQueen's Bustard, Ørkenpræstekrave, Kaspisk Præstekrave og mængder af lærker, sandhøns, sangere mm. Det er også i denne tørre del, at Rosestære forekommer i utrolige antal. Men især en biotop tiltrækker ornitologer og det er de eneste tilbageværende Turengaskove. Disse tørkeresistente særprægede poppelskove er bl.a. hjemsted for tilbedte fugle som Saxaul Sparrow, Stribet Dværghornugle, Turkestandue, Turkestan Tit og White-winged Woodpecker.

Da jeg begyndte at komme regelmæssigt i regionen for mere end ti år siden, var kendskabet til fuglenes udbredelse endnu på baby-stadiet. Eksempelvis hed det sig at White-winged Woodpecker udelukkende forekom i Turengaskovene, og stor var min forbavelse da jeg regelmæssigt begyndte at finde spætten i Bishkeks byparker. I dag ved man, at den forekommer over et større område end tidligere antaget, og sådan er det heldigvis også tilfældet for flere af de andre fugle. Desværre gælder det ikke den særegne Turkestan Due som er så afhængig af Turengaskovenes hullede gamle træer.

Et interessant fællestræk for det sydlige Kasakhstan og Kirgistan, er forekomsten af en række særegne lokale racer. Flere af disse forekommer andre steder, men racerne i centralasien afviger betydeligt fra nominatformen. Det gælder eksempelvis den gråhovedede udgave af Stillits ssp caniceps, Vandstær af racen leucogaster, den flotte personata-vipstjert som bærer det rammende navn Maskevipstjert. Af sidstnævnte kendes en overvintrende fugl fra november 2003 til april 2004 i Norge. Den smukke lokale race af Citronvipstjert calcarata som yngler i fugtige områder i kirgistanens bjerge adskiller sig både morfologisk og biotopmæssigt fra dets nære slægtning den gråryggede citreola som er udbredt i lavere beliggende områder mod nord. Blandt sangerne er især Gærdesanger-ssp interessante. I felten er de svære at adskille især de tre forekommende halimodendri, margelanica og minula Ørkengærdesanger. Lettere går det med Bjerggærdesangeren ssp althea, som nogle allerede har udskilt som art, Humes Whitethroat. Blandt disse fire

gærdesangere er der stor forskel i levested og sangtype; så muligheden for et fremtidigt split må siges at være sandsynligt. En anden interessant race er Stær ssp porphyronotus. Den ligner til forveksling Ensfarvet Stær og kunne i princippet sagtens forekomme i Europa.

En af de mere velkendte er Sort Glente *M.m.lineatus* som undertiden regnes for en selvstændig art, og allerede er engelsk navngivet som Black-eared Kite pga. de mørke ansigtstegninger. Med dens hvidlige tegning ved basen af håndsvingfjerene kontrasterende mod de sorte "fingre," lyse undergump og haleunderside, er den i sandhed også markant; minder undertiden mere om Rød Glente. Racen er observeret i Finland og England, og er vel også potentiel i Danmark. Jeg kunne nævne en del flere centralasiatiske arter og ornitologiske "fænomener" som er værd at undersøge. I flæng kan jeg nævne arter som: Østlig Bleg Gulbug versus Stepegulbug, Gulbug ssp rama – som jeg tror, forekommer i en del flere afvigende former, interessante interaktioner mellem Humes Sanger og Lundsanger – har bl.a. observeret hvorledes de to arter ofte interagerer, og jeg har med sikkerhed hørt Humes Sanger imitere kald af Lundsanger og omvendt. Det er en spændende foreteelse, som kræver yderligere studier. Desuden forekommer en del mindre kendte ssp af bl.a. Blåhals, Korttået Lærke, Rørspurv, Sydlig Nattergal, Brundrossel, Sort-/Rødstrubet Drossel, Rørsanger, Nonnestenpikker, Græshoppesanger, Høgesanger, etc.

Tillige er jeg temmelig sikker på, at der kan forekomme gedigne overraskelser. I foråret 2007 blev jeg opmærksom på en syngende Sylvia-type a la Løvsanger. I længere tid eftersøgte jeg fuglen, og stor var min overraskelse da jeg fandt en Træløber... Der forekommer to arter: Vores egen Træløber samt Himalaya Træløber (Bar-tailed Træløber). Ingen af dem skulle tilnærmelsesvis have en sang som vi hørte, og det blev konstateret at fuglen i hvert fald ikke var Bar-tailed. Vi forsøgte uden held at få billeder af fuglen. Det er en uhyre interessant observation som der stadig ikke er fundet en forklaring på. I juli måned søgte jeg uden held at opspore fuglen igen.

Det er overvejende sandsynligt at finde flere sydligt forekommende Himalayaarter i Kirgistan, således er der iagttagelser af to arter spætter, som ikke er beskrevet fra det nordlige Himalaya, men desværre bliver jeg nødt til at

forholde mig stringent til sådanne observationer, og minimum fotodokumentation mm er næsten umuligt at undvære i sådanne tilfælde. Jeg modtager regelmæssigt forunderlige observationer fra Kirgistan, som er næsten umulige at forholde sig til – ofte er der blot tale om iagttagelser af lokale – men for europæere – ukendte racer, som foranlediger observatøren til fejlagtige bestemmelser. Så stringens er ufravigeligt! Jeg er dog ganske overbevist om at de mest distinkte racer med tiden kan opnå status som selvstændige arter, og derfor er der al mulig grund til at få det hele med hvis man alligevel birder i regionen.

Tamga

Rapport fra en landsby i Kirgistan

Af Michael Westerbjerg Andersen

Sommersolens morgenstråler tegner støvkanaler i rummet og fluerne summer drillende. Hanen har for længst galet; faktisk det meste af natten, akkompagneret af gøende køtere tilsat skrydende æsler fra det tidligste dagry. Fra havens abrikostræer lyder det hjemlige kald fra en blåmejse, men hernede er der ingen blåmejsler. Det er naboens azurmejser. Så må jeg ud! Husets indre henligger i sløvende stilhed. Vucan, schæferhunden som har ligget ved min seng er lysvågen og følger mig ud til porten. Snart slentrer jeg hen ad gaden i følgeskab med den særegne lokale hvide vipstjert - Maskevipstjert ssp personata. Byen har hullede veje kantet af små russiske landboliger. Langs siderne af vejen er der vandingskanaler, hvor flokke af gæs og høns holder hestevogne og raslende biler i ave. Støv tilslører bybilledet i smukke farver og flittige landsbykoner for længst i gang med arbejdet, medens husbonden er på vej til dagens dont med leen henslængt nonchalant over skulderen.

Et langspyt på godt og vel 80 km nord for den kirgisisk-kinesiske grænse, gemt inde mellem Issyk Kol søen og Jetim Bel bjergene (sydlig udløber af Tien Shan bjergkæden), ligger landsbyen Tamga. Stedet er mest kendt for Kumtor-guldminen oppe i bjergene og det nu forfaldne sanatorium som havde sin blomstringstid for mere end fyrre år siden da Jurij Gagarin holdt ferie ved søen - i 1961 den første mand i rummet, som ved den lejlighed udtalte de berømte ord: Jeg ser ingen Gud heroppe.

Uden for byen er der rejst en bronzestatue af den vellidte kosmonaut hvis smil kunne gøre selv betonhårde kommunistamazoner bløde i knæene. I

dag skuer han ud over de smukke bjerge omgivet af kvidrende Rødpandede Irisker og er ikke slået til ukendelighed som de lokale afbildninger af Vladimir Iljitj Uljanov, bedre kendt som Lenin. Landsbyen er således ikke videre kendt og adskiller sig ikke væsentligt fra mange andre landsbyer i regionen, men er alligevel en attraktion. Muligvis er det et udslag af min længsel og jagten efter det uspolerede, som er forklaringen på min fascination.

Her i denne afkrog af verden, hvor intet kommer af sig selv men kun opnås ved tungt slid, flid og nøjsomhed møder man en befolkning hvis smil og venlighed er intet mindre end rørende. Kirgisernes tilværelse er ikke en dans på bjergroser og konflikter forbundet med druk og fattigdom forekommer. Dagligt bliver jeg standset på gaden til en kort sludder; til tider kan det være svært at få tid til fuglene, men ægte venlighed er værdifuld og du når alligevel dine ornitologiske mål - og fuglelivet fejler altså intet, og for en europæisk fuglekigger har Tamga kvaliteter.

Uden for landsbyen ligger de genialt ekstensivt dyrkede marker, hvis rigdom på ukrudtsplanter glæder fine antal vagtler, engsnarre, stillitser ssp paropanisi, bomlærker, sanglærker, karmindompapper, og "rigtige" fasaner plus andre rare sager. Herude er den sortryggede citronvipstjert ssp calcarata karakterfugl i fugtige partier; en fugl det er umuligt at blive træt af, og i toppen af de fritstående træer sidder rufinus-ørnevåger og vulpinus-musvåger. Den særprægede sorte glente ssp lineatus patruljerer også bygrænsen for ædebart.

I træktiderne får standfuglene følgeskab af Kongeørn, Havørn, Dværgørn, Dværgfalk ssp palidus samt sjældenheder som Slagfalk, Berberfalk, Upland Buzzard, Steppeørn mm. Ret beset er slagfalken lokal ynglefugl, men i lighed



med alle andre steder i centralasien er den efterstræbt og fanges i vid udstrækning med videresalg til arabiske falkonerer for øje. De lokale beundrer også slagfalken, men kun få kirgisere har den fornødne viden til at holde slagfalkene i live. Derfor hænder det, at de ganske simpelt slipper falkene fri. Det er ikke problemløst, især ikke hvis det drejer sig om immature fugle der ikke har lært jagtens kunst. De kan simpelthen ikke klare sig, og crasher tilfældige steder i landsbyen. Her bliver de i bedste fald samlet op og afleveret til ejeren, der som regel endnu engang prøver lykken.



I 2005 blev en slagfalk gentagne gange udsat for denne yoyo-tilværelse, men til sidst slog den sig på den lokale kæmpeflok af flinke tamduer der leverede sig selv som føde, og kom hver aften til overnatning i byens udkant. Ikke alle falke er så heldige, og det er vederstyggeligt at overvære hvorledes falkene til stadighed indfanges og dømmes en skammelig eksistens. Duehøge er meget nemmere at holde i live og en populær fangeskabsfugl - en venlig men latterlig gamling viste mig hans duehøg og tirrede som vanligt dyret ved skiftevis at spytte og svinge et kødstykke foran fuglen. Han lagde ekstra pres på fuglen for at "imponere" mig og høgen kvitterede sluttelig med at række kloen ud og strejfede mandens arm så der kom en dyb flænge, som jeg efterfølgende rimpede sammen med nål og tråd. Den formiddag havde jeg ekstra mange tommelfingre. Rovfugle hører ikke hjemme i fangenskab - kort og godt!

På en stenet parcel mellem husene lander et par hærfulge. De er vant til mennesker og fouragerer upåvirket trippende omkring mellem tuer og tidsler. Sker det man kommer for tæt på rejser de rustrøde hovedfjer mens den flyver et par meter længere frem. Sjældent længere, for her er mængder af fede larver, orme, biller - ungfuglene sidder utålmodigt på de nærliggende hegnspæle og glør utålmodigt efter en godbid. Fra de højeste popler lyder pirolens bløde fløjt, akkompagneret af de helvedes larmende Common Mynaer som i de sidste årtier er blevet mere og mere almindelige - på bekostning af stærene. Mynaerne ekspanderer fortsat (på bekostning af stærene som den udkonkurrerer) nordpå og kan snildt overleve i køligere klimaer. Lur mig om de ikke dukker op i Europa. Spørgsmålet er hvor nordgrænsen ligger - jeg tror den kan overleve nordligere end

Mellemeuropa. Det er en snu fugl og har med stor selvfølgelighed indtaget de beboede områder i centralasien, og selv hestene har vænnet sig til at transportere de frække mynaer rundt på ryggen, hvor de på Oxpecker-maner befrier værten for parasitter.

Saxaul Spurv. Foto: Michael Westerbjerg Andersen

Som et missil cruiser de lokale lærkefalke hen over haverne, for længst opdaget af årvågne phoenicuroides isabellatornskader, der sidder eksponerede i toppen af småbuske og hegnspæle. Tornskaederne er karakterfugle i haverne og travlt optagede af yngletidens aktiviteter. Hele sommeren igennem viger de ikke fra territorierne som også forsvares indædt mod artsfæller. Rosenbrystede tornskaeder holder til i læhegn uden for byen sammen med høgesangere og brunhovede værlinger. I toppen af masterne langs vejene sidder tyrkerduer side om side med palmeduer; ved et tilfælde iagttog jeg en palmedue der som den naturligste ting i verden havde dannet par med en tyrkerdue. Mindre almindelig er turtelduen og dens nære slægtning Østlig Turteldue ssp meena.

En sen nat hørtes Dværghornuglens monotone kald i nærliggende piletræer, og da jeg om dagen kiggede efter den flirtede en Humes sanger rundt med føde i næbbet; temmelig langt væk fra dens sædvanlige yngleområder oppe i bjergene. i havernes tætte buskads synger lundsangere og undseligt farvede sydlig nattergal af racen hafizi. Af andre ynglefugle kan nævnes: Sortstrubet bynkfugl, Rosenstære, Ellekrage, Blæder, Nonnestenpikker, Isabellastenpikker mm. Der er mange ting at opleve, og hver gang jeg er i Tamga gøres nye opdagelser.

Forklaringen på det rige fugleliv er nærliggende. Klimaet er udpræget kontinentalt, præget af kolde

vintre og varme somre tilsat stedvist righoldig nedbør. . Den frugtbare löss - en jordtype bestående af fint ler - giver misundelsesværdige livsbetingelser for planterne. I denne del af verden viger prydhaverne for praktisk havebrug, hvilket ses i haverne der bugner af frugt og grønsager. Landsbyens haver udgør fuglerige oaser og tiltrækker året rundt fugle fra nær og fjern.

I træktiderne passerer området af fugle som i den nærliggende Barskaun slugt, har fundet en relativ let passage over Himalayabjergene, men vinter og sommer er de bedste årstider.

Vinterlandskabet kan forekomme barskt men der er mange solskinstimer og på frostklare dage med uendelig sigt er det en svir. Den nærliggende Issyk Kol fryser aldrig til pga. termiske kilder, og store mængder vandfugle overvintrer. Uden for Tamga fouragerer vinteren igennem rustænder i hundredvis i følgeskab af sangsvaner og alpekrageflokke, og hvis man keder sig kan den nærliggende flok på "sølle" 400 rødhovedet ænder kigges igennem. Bjergene ligger få kilometer fra landsbyen, og ved særligt bistert vejrlig søger bjergfuglene ly og føde i haverne.

I sådanne kuldeperioder kan stort set samtlige kirgisiske montane ynglestandfugle træffes bl.a. Red-mantled Rosefinch, Plain Mountain Finch, Altajjernspurv, Sortstrubet jernspurv, Brown Accentor, murløber, white-winged grosbeak, eversmann's redstart (fåtallig standfugl) i selskab med vinterfugle som silkehale og gulspurv mm. Således også rødpandet irisk som i april

frekventerede en ophængt mejsekugle sammen med en White-browed Tit Warbler. Det er også om vinteren de store flokke af Hvidkindet Værling iagttages; op til 500 fugle sammen. I april trækker de Sortstrubet drosler i stort tal gennem kirgisien. De holder i træer og buske, og skulker præcis på samme måde som Nivå-fuglen i vinters; ved forstyrrelse trækker de skyndsomt ind under en busk, og bliver siddende bomstille 15-60 minutter, hvorefter de forsigtigt titter ud og fortsætter fourageringen.

De lokale har efterhånden vænnet sig til min tilstedeværelse og et forstående eller er det medlidende nik når denne sære fremmede står og glør ind i haverne med kikkert og tele; de tager det pænt desuagtet alle husene har lokum i haven. Allermest holder jeg af at liste rundt morgen og aften. Sommeren er fortryllende med lange lyse dage og lune aftener. Indbyggerne nyder tydeligvis aftensolens behagelige stråler. Udenfor husene sidder mændene på hug i smågrupper med tændte smøger, mens konerne med korslagte arme har fundet tid til en aftenpassiar med naboens og ungerne bolttrer sig frydefuldt og fnisende i leg overvåget af uforstående hunde og måbende æsler. Fra markerne kommer hyrder og bønder hjem med hestetrukne hølæs og flokke af får og kreaturer. Roen og stilheden er vidunderlig og der er fugle alle vegne. Og træet lusker man hjemad.

